

THE NATION

AND ATHENÆUM



VOL. XLVI.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 1930.

No. 22

CONTENTS

	PAGE
EVENTS OF THE WEEK	719
A FOURTH PARTY	722
THE EGYPTIAN OUTLOOK. From a Correspondent in Egypt	723
PARLIAMENTARY NOTES. By Erimus	724
THE TARIFF TRUCE. By Richard Barton	725
"I TELL YOU." By MacFlecknoe	726
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Feminists and Corporal Punishment (Mrs. H. M. Swanwick); Corporal Punishment (L. W. Rendel); The Education Question (H. G. Wood); The State and the Schools (R. G. Randall); The South-West African Mandate (Freda White); Gandhi and Thoreau (Henry S. Salt); "Presenting" and "Producing" (T. H. Marshall, Francis Birrell, and Omicron); The Roman Index ("Tournebroche"); C. P. Sanger (A. D. S.); Book Reviews (Lyn Ll. Irvine); President Masaryk (Francis P. Marchant); The Naval Conference (D. M. Mason)	727-730
MEREDITH IN DEVON. By W. G.	730
THE ITALIAN EXHIBITION.—IX. By Roger Fry	731
PLAYS AND PICTURES. By Omicron	732
THE WORLD OF BOOKS:— The British in Flanders. By Edmund Blunden	734

	PAGE
REVIEWS:— C. E. Montague. By James Thornton	735
Clemenceau. By A. C. Bell	735
Christian Science. By Haslam Mills	736
Letters of George Sand	737
"A Harmless Paranoiac"	737
A Champion of the Negro	738
Adam and the Talkies. By Sylva Norman	738
Eyes on the Conference	740
A LITERARY POCKET-BOOK	740
AUCTION BRIDGE. By Caliban	742
BOOKS IN BRIEF	744
FINANCIAL SECTION:— The Week in the City	746

THE NATION is edited and published weekly at 38, Great James Street, London, W.C.1.

Chairman: J. M. KEYNES.

Editor: HAROLD WRIGHT.

Telephone: Business Manager: Holborn 9928.

Editorial: Holborn 4424.

Annual Subscription, Thirty Shillings, including postage to any part of the world. MSS. should be addressed to the Editor, and accompanied by stamped and addressed envelope for return. Entered as Second Class Matter, March 15th, 1929, at the Post Office at Boston, Mass., under the Act of March 3rd, 1879 (Sec. 397, P. L. and R.).

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

THE new French Ministry formed by M. Chautemps has fallen on a vote of no-confidence after an existence of only forty-eight hours, and it is, at present, most uncertain how a new Cabinet will be formed. MM. Poincaré and Briand are usually appealed to at times of extreme parliamentary difficulty; but, according to the latest reports, neither will be willing to accept the premiership. The chief international significance of the prolonged crisis seems to consist in its revelation of the weakness of the Left Groups in the Chamber; for, whatever their faults as administrators, French politicians of the Herriot group have always shown themselves less unyielding in matters of foreign policy than those who get their support from the Right and Centre. It is remembered to M. Herriot's credit that he made an improvement in Anglo-French relations his first concern, and if a stable Government could have been formed out of the groups from which he derived his majority, there would have been grounds for hoping that the French delegation at the Naval Conference would have been willing to make some reductions in a naval programme which, if adhered to rigidly, may excite in Britain a sense of maritime danger, and which constitutes a formidable obstacle to a Five-Power agreement.

* * *

Until the French can decide by what manner of Ministry they wish to be represented, the main work of the Naval Conference is at a standstill. The Sub-

Committees of experts have, however, continued to meet, and have made good progress in clearing up technical points, especially with regard to the classes of vessels exempted from limitation, which will be helpful in speeding up results, if agreement can be attained on the major issues of the Conference. Whether such agreement can be reached depends, largely, on the attitude of the Ministry ultimately formed in France. The obstacles are serious, but there appears to be no truth in the rumour that the Conference will only meet again in order to acknowledge its failure. It is believed in well-informed quarters that, even if no Five-Power agreement is reached, a Three-Power agreement between the British Empire, the United States, and Japan, will emerge from the discussions, accompanied, probably, by some interim understanding with France and Italy. Even this would be a big step; for France, who has a horror of isolation, might not improbably be prepared to make concessions in 1936, in order to come in; but it seems clear that a genuine Five-Power agreement is still the aim, and hope, of the delegates.

* * *

It is significant of the way in which thought is moving that the question of a Pact, on the Pacific model, is assuming more and more prominence in public discussion of the Conference. Whether such a Pact would satisfy the French demand for security as a *quid pro quo* for reduction in armaments, is uncertain; there is at least a possibility that it would do so. The chief obstacle lies in the traditional dislike of the United States Senate for European entanglements; but

there is a growing body of American opinion which regards such a Pact—reserving to the United States complete liberty of action as regards armed intervention—as a lesser danger than of being dragged, by sheer force of circumstances, into a war that had broken out through the absence of any machinery for consultation between the United States and the Old World Powers. It is difficult to see how the Conference, when it meets again, can avoid at least a discussion of this suggestion. Meanwhile, Italy has issued, like the other Powers, a statement of her aims. It consists mainly of a repetition of her previous demands and arguments, but is notably temperate in tone, and appears to be carefully framed so as not to exclude a practical compromise, for the period of the Convention, of her claim to *de jure* parity with France.

It may be said without exaggeration that the present Parliamentary crisis in France is one of the most serious in recent times. M. Poincaré resigns and M. Tardieu takes his place. Three months later M. Tardieu's continual absence from the Chamber and a slight attack of influenza show up the fundamental weakness of his Government: the absolute necessity of a leader with a strong hand being present to keep the majority from getting frayed at the edges by "Lobby" intrigues. It is not enough to reproach the Opposition with having taken advantage of his absence; a Government depending to that extent upon the influence of a single person can never be a stable Government. M. Tardieu falls, and M. Chautemps takes his place with the intention of forming a Government of concentration supported by the greater part of the Left and certain elements of the Left-Centre. But it could only live with the tacit or open support of the Socialists, and then only if certain waverers in other groups refrained from voting or voted against their own groups. Obviously, such a Government, even if it had succeeded in weathering the storm on Tuesday, could not have lasted more than a couple of weeks, and the crying need of the country is stability and action. In point of fact, it only lived a couple of days, and was defeated by fifteen votes on the very day of the Prime Minister's declaration of policy. What remains to be done? Another attempt at a Right-Centre concentration might be tried under M. Tardieu, or even M. Poincaré, and might even last long enough to pass the Budget and see the end of the Naval Conference. But the real difficulties would still remain untouched, and the country would still be menaced with a relapse. There seems, in fact, no alternative left but continued instability or the dissolution of the Chamber.

That devoted builder of the League of Nations, Lord Cecil, is now in Geneva serving on a Committee appointed by the last Assembly to determine what changes in the Covenant would be necessary to bring it into harmony with the Kellogg Pact. This is a delicate task, reopening old controversies, for it involves an attempt to close the famous "gap in the Covenant" by which a "private" war is theoretically possible. At first sight it seems simple, harmless, and desirable to omit the italicized words from Article 12, which runs, "... they agree in no case to resort to war until three months after the award by the arbitrators or the report by the Council." The trouble comes, however, in Article 16, which begins: "Should any Member of the League resort to war in disregard of its covenants under Article 12, 13, or 15, it shall *ipso facto* be deemed to have committed an act of war against all other Members of the League . . .", and then proceeds to deal with the vexed question of sanc-

tions. There is thus a danger, as Mr. Philip Kerr has pointed out in an able letter to the *Times*, that we may be led to pledge the use of the British Navy against a breaker of the Kellogg Pact, in circumstances which might bring us into conflict with the neutral rights claimed by America.

It is true that such a conflict might conceivably arise under the Covenant as it now stands. Our present obligation to apply sanctions is, however, limited to those cases in which a State-Member has resorted to war without waiting for arbitration or conciliation, or in defiance of an award. It would be a serious matter to extend our undertaking so as to include the coercion of a State which went to war in circumstances which did not violate the present Covenant, and many people will feel that any such attempt to strengthen the Kellogg Pact should only be made after full consultation with the United States. The work of the Committee now sitting at Geneva should be valuable in clarifying the issues, but a solution would be enormously simplified if a Five-Power Pact on the Pacific model, such as has been adumbrated in connection with the Naval Conference, should materialize.

The total number of unemployed persons on the registers on February 17th was 1,523,900. This was 3,926 more than a week before, and 65,868 more than a year before. The position is, however, considerably worse than the last figures imply, for there was a great frost in the second half of February last year which caused extensive temporary unemployment. Roughly speaking, employment was fairly good in the general run of trades a year ago, and unemployment was concentrated mainly in coal-mining, building (owing to the weather), the distributive trades, iron and steel, and cotton. Now we are undoubtedly suffering from a severe trade depression. Factors such as the Stock Exchange slump are largely responsible for this, but the shadow of the Budget is also hanging heavily over the business world. Mr. Snowden has got an exceedingly difficult task before him, and he is justified in saying that his predecessor left "the till empty of cash" and "chock full of unpaid bills." Mr. Churchill's friends do him no real service by exaggerating the cost of the General Strike, or by saying that "he was struggling to meet the cost of the events of 1926 without adding to taxation." Of course he was, but he was also embarking on new expenditure without making proper provision to meet it. He was an improvident steward, and it will not be fair to blame Mr. Snowden for the consequences.

The Coal Mines Bill, like the poet's wounded snake, "drags its slow length along" in Committee; but by the time these lines appear in print its career may conceivably have come to an abrupt termination. Some twenty-four pages of amendments, concerned, for the most part, with Part I., confronted members on Monday, and on Tuesday the Liberal Party's Coal Committee handed in a great many more. The effect of these amendments would be to deprive Part I. of the Bill of its compulsory character, and generally to emasculate its provisions. Their submission indicated that the Committee's negotiations with the President of the Board of Trade had definitely broken down. The Government is determined to stand by Part I. and the "quota," while Mr. Lloyd George's dislike of it remains implacable. Some Liberals, however, would have been prepared to go further in the direction of compromise. They regard a "quota," for a limited period, as a necessary preliminary to the schemes which follow, and

they dislike being associated with a line of criticism which in some quarters identifies them with the coal owners. Indeed, the alignment of forces in regard to the Bill is very peculiar. In its entirety, it pleases nobody; yet it reflects not unfairly the present bewildering cross-currents of opinion and policy.

* * *

In the face of a growing dissatisfaction, discernible in several quarters, the Government refuses obstinately to disclose its intentions in regard to the School Attendance Bill. Local authorities are busily preparing—as they are bound to do—for the raising of the school leaving age in a year from now; in the meantime, the conditions under which the change will be effected remain largely undetermined. The whole affair has been bungled. The date which has been fixed upon was probably a year or two too soon—it would perhaps have been better to implement, as they stood, the recommendations of the Hadow Report—and we suspect that the Government was actuated rather by the economic argument—the desirability of relieving the pressure on the labour market—than by purely educational considerations. But now that pressure to spend more on maintenance allowances than Mr. Snowden is willing to sanction is being brought to bear, the Government seems inclined to draw back. This shilly-shallying is bound to have harmful reactions in the educational sphere, and the sooner the Government's intentions are known the better; for it will be disastrous if the initiation of an essential reform is prejudiced by considerations that ought to be irrelevant.

* * *

A Standing Committee of the House of Commons met this week to consider Mr. Thurtle's Blasphemy Bill which laid down that "no criminal proceedings shall be instituted in any court against any person for schism, heresy, blasphemy, blasphemous libel, or atheism." This Bill had been passed on Second Reading by a majority of 181 to 77. In Committee, the Solicitor-General, Sir T. B. Melville, a Roman Catholic, moved on behalf of the Government to insert a new clause providing that "any person who by words, writing, or otherwise publishes any matter of so scurrilous a character as to be calculated, by outraging the religious conviction of any other person, to provoke a breach of the peace, shall be guilty of an offence under the Act, and shall be liable on conviction on indictment to a fine not exceeding £100 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or to both such fine and imprisonment." In view of the Attorney-General's attitude, Mr. Thurtle felt compelled to withdraw his Bill. "It is, indeed," Mr. Thurtle stated, "far preferable to leave the law as it is; the proposed Clause would lead to an extension of the existing law rather than a modernization of it." It is curious how reactionary, in some respects, an "advanced" Government can be.

* * *

A General Election has been held in Japan, and the Government Party—the Minseito—has been returned by a very considerable majority. This result will not be felt abroad, for the policy of Japan in China, and Japanese support of armament limitation, were not in issue at the elections, and would not have been seriously affected by a change of Government. The remarkable feature of the elections is that the Labour Party has gone down badly, notwithstanding the growth of Japanese industry. This is partly due to bad organization, but it implies also that the new generation of Japanese industrial magnates have made a conscientious endeavour to establish better relations with the workers, and to improve factory conditions. The truly

hideous conditions of some of the big factories after the war was due to over-rapid industrialization, and to the fact that some of the best elements in Japan stood aloof, at first, from the process. European opinion was rightly shocked at the conditions which existed; but it is only fair to remember that in the old-fashioned Japanese trades, relations between employers and employed were generally excellent.

* * *

It is to be presumed that the agreement between King Feisal and Ibn Saud is largely due to the exertions of Sir Francis Humphreys, the British High Commissioner in Iraq. He, and any other British officials who may have assisted, are heartily to be congratulated upon a statesmanlike achievement. The two Kings met on board a British warship on February 22nd. Ibn Saud, who has done very little to stop frontier raiding, was, at first, unwilling to begin negotiations, but Feisal persisted, and after two days of continuous discussion, an agreement was reached. The two Kings recognize that their countries are separate and independent, and undertake to exchange diplomatic representatives. Tribal raiders are to be outlawed, and the claims of Iraq for damages are to be favourably considered. A permanent frontier Commission is to be appointed, and if agreement cannot be reached within six months about police posts in the southern desert, the question is to be settled by an arbitrational tribunal. All disputes arising out of the treaty are to go to arbitration. In view of the character of the signatories and the peculiar composition of the Nejd, the treaty will have to be very carefully operated; but there is no reason to fear that the diplomatists who persuaded the two Kings to sign it will be unequal to the task of supervising its execution.

* * *

The appointments made by General Berenguer, the new Spanish Premier, continue to meet with general approval. The Duke of Alba has been moved from the Ministry of Education to the Foreign Office, after making a satisfactory settlement with the University professors and students. General Goded has been appointed Under-Secretary for War, and it is believed that he will be given the exceptionally difficult task of settling Army affairs. The task is difficult because nothing can alter the plain fact that the Army is, and will continue to be a corporate body with a keen interest in politics. Army reform in Spain must always mean a very nice adjustment of the Army's political and disciplinary interests. Until the Cortes assembles, it will be impossible to forecast the turn of events; but it is significant that General Berenguer thinks it necessary to maintain a censorship, though in a modified form, and that this is believed to be due to a revival of Republican propaganda.

* * *

A Conference on World Aspects of Unemployment, organized by the League of Nations Union, opened at the School of Economics on Tuesday, and was continued on Wednesday and Thursday. Its agenda included Unemployment as an International Problem, the Effect on Labour Conditions of Rationalization, and Resettlement by Industries. All these topics urgently demand discussion, in particular perhaps the second; and here both Lord Eustace Percy and Mr. Arthur Pugh had something of real value to say. Sir Oswald Mosley gave the Conference some slight indication of the ideas by which he wants the Cabinet to be actuated.

* * *

An important article by Mr. J. M. Keynes on the Draft Convention for Financial Assistance by the League of Nations will be published in our next issue.

A FOURTH PARTY

"WHAT are you fellows trying to do?" inquired Lord Salisbury of Lord Randolph Churchill, Mr. Balfour, Sir John Gorst, and Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, the "Fourth Party" of the eighties. "Trying to do good," replied Sir Henry, innocently. It was a disarming answer, and it is improbable that Mr. Baldwin will get any greater satisfaction as to Lord Beaverbrook's motives in forming a fourth Party now. For our part, we are not concerned with Lord Beaverbrook's motives, and we have so recently discussed his policy that we may be excused from analyzing it further for the present, but the formation of a new political Party may have such far-reaching effects that it is necessary to examine at once its implications and possible repercussions.

The position is that Lord Beaverbrook and Lord Rothermere have joined forces to launch the United Empire Party, which ostensibly takes the seas as the rival of all three existing Parties in order to do battle for the cause of Empire Free Trade. The fleet of newspapers controlled by the two leaders is largely devoted to propaganda for the new Party, and a campaign fund is being raised which is already in the neighbourhood of £100,000. Lord Rothermere declares that half the constituencies in the country will be fought by United Empire candidates at the next General Election, and that these will be largely chosen by the number of supporters enrolled. Thus, "if we have 5,000 enlistments in the constituency of St. George's, Hanover Square, and only 2,000 enlistments in Mr. Lansbury's constituency of Bow and Bromley, the United Empire Party will fight St. George's, Hanover Square." The obvious implication is that the new Party will run candidates for the safest Tory seats, and there are very few that might not be captured by the Liberal or Labour Parties if the Protectionist vote were split. Due allowance should no doubt be made for exaggeration in the prospectus, but even if the number of candidates is halved, and only 150 of the promised 300 actually take the field, the Tory prospects will be black indeed. No wonder the Conservative Central Office is alarmed!

Premature rejoicing in the Liberal and Labour camps would, nevertheless, be very unwise. It is not yet clear that the United Empire Party really means business. It may be that when the Tories are sufficiently frightened, the newspaper peers will come to terms with them. It is highly probable that the very large numbers of Tory members and candidates who are willing to say: "I agree with Lord Beaverbrook's policy, but I remain loyal to Mr. Baldwin," will be spared the ordeal of rival Protectionist candidates being run against them. It is even doubtful whether the alliance between the DAILY MAIL and the DAILY EXPRESS can survive until the next election. A considerable divergence of policy seems already to be developing. Lord Beaverbrook's organ continues to concentrate upon an imperial zollverein for Great Britain and the Crown Colonies, with "a limited partnership between Great Britain and the Dominions."

According to Lord Rothermere's organ, on the other hand, the United Empire Party stands for:—

"Protection for the industries and agriculture of Great Britain and the Empire against foreign competition, and combined, if necessary, with a subsidy for British farmers to ensure that there shall be no rise in the price of food.

"The creation of a popularly elected or selected Second Chamber fully able to curb and check the irresponsibility of single-Chamber government.

"Ruthless economy in national and local expenditure.

"No extensions of doles or pensions.

"Less bureaucratic interference with trade and manufactures.

"No more surrender in India."

Here is a comprehensive programme, which may or may not have been agreed between the two leaders of the Party. It remains to be seen what modifications it may undergo before the next General Election, and how much of it will be swallowed by the Conservatives in order to buy off opposition.

Mr. Baldwin's first reaction does not appear to be conciliatory. On the contrary, the formation of the new Party has had the salutary effect of inducing the Conservative leader to define his attitude more clearly. He again gives lip-service, it is true, to the "ultimate aim" of Empire Free Trade, as "an ideal for which every Unionist should work"; but he proceeds immediately to declare that "as a practical policy" it is "impossible to-day," and gives reasons for this which are not temporary, but permanent, and should therefore rule it out as an ultimate aim. First, he says, the Dominions won't have it. They are engaged in creating and expanding their manufacturing industries behind their own tariff walls. "We might prefer that they should be content to produce food and raw materials and to buy their manufactured goods from us, but that is beside the point. They have decided to become manufacturing nations on a basis of protective duties, and on that fact alone any immediate policy of Empire Free Trade crashes at the outset." How soon, we wonder, does Mr. Baldwin anticipate that this obstacle will be removed and his ultimate aim become practicable? Secondly, he says that the suggestion that Empire Free Trade might begin with the Crown Colonies and Protectorates is based on a misapprehension. "It is true that the Colonies are under the direction of Whitehall, but they have their own Legislative Assemblies, and their revenues are almost entirely raised . . . by taxes on goods entering and leaving their ports." Moreover, "we have many treaty obligations with foreign countries which provide for equality of treatment in regard to imports into certain of their Colonies and ours. From these arrangements we reap substantial advantages of particular value to our home manufacturers." And, finally, the Mandated Territories "present even more serious difficulties in the application of a partial policy of Empire Free Trade." We are again left in doubt as to how and when Mr. Baldwin expects these obstacles to be overcome. He is content to assert that "the only businesslike method with which to start the journey towards our great ideal" is by "Safeguarding; Imperial Preference; Imperial Rationalization; Imperial Co-operation." That is as far as he will go at

the moment. It is possible, however, to see already that with Lords Beaverbrook and Rothermere hammering at his portals, Mr. Baldwin will not be able to "bring a greater number of the Party together in harmony" by the simple device of claiming "a free hand for safeguarding." He will be forced to explain what he intends to do with his hand if it is freed, and for this at least the country is indebted to the United Empire Party.

Perhaps the worst feature of this split in the Protectionist camp is that it tends to bring discredit upon political life. It goes far to justify those who exclaim, "How frivolous these politicians are!" At a time when the nations are making a confused but, in some cases, a genuine attempt to organize the world for peace, and when our own nation is struggling to overcome the most serious dislocation of trade and employment, these people are quarrelling over the precise form in which an antiquated and discredited policy shall be presented again to an electorate which has consistently rejected it. Mr. Baldwin, to do him justice, seems partly conscious of the weakness of his position, for he openly deplores the variety of fiscal opinion in his Party, as if to say, "It is most unfortunate that they are not all Protectionists or all Free Traders, because then we could find time and energy to attend to live issues." Nevertheless, the spectacle presented by his Party, torn between a belief in crude Protectionist fallacies and fear of another resounding defeat at the polls, is not an edifying one. Consolation may be found in the fact that two red herrings are now being drawn in opposite directions across the trail, and the scent of one may be neutralized by that of the other.

It is clear, at any rate, that this strange development carries with it a great opportunity and a new responsibility for Liberalism, which has not only to perform its historic task of correcting fiscal errors, but must also continue its constructive criticism of the Government's measures and omissions without effective aid from an official Opposition absorbed in domestic conflict.

THE EGYPTIAN OUTLOOK

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN EGYPT.

IN procuring the resignation of Lord Lloyd, Mr. Henderson uprooted no new-grown nettle, but one which Sir Austen Chamberlain, doubtless with some compunction, had failed to grasp. Lord Lloyd holds, as we now learn, that Egypt may appropriately be administered by some mimicry of the methods which, in many respects so eminently successful in their time, Lord Cromer himself by 1907 regarded as no longer viable. No wonder, then, that he, first of all our representatives in Egypt, should have entirely failed to persuade Egyptians that he had any sympathy for them; or that he should have behaved, no more undetected by successive Egyptian Governments than by his own, as if he disbelieved in the policy of Great Britain as inaugurated by the Milner Mission in 1920 and laid down by the Declaration of 1922.

But coinciding with the renewal of negotiations, Lord Lloyd's departure has somewhat obscured the Anglo-Egyptian question with the vapours of a personal issue; not otherwise, surely, should we have been invited by

eminent politicians to draw inferences from allegations so remote from sense and fact as that his disappearance precipitated the troubles in Palestine or that he found Egypt in a slough of disorder and lifted her out of it. This is true of his predecessor: Lord Lloyd left Egypt no more and no less orderly than he found it. In the meanwhile, by practising a mixture of interference, indecision, and mystification, he reduced a series of Egyptian Prime Ministers to a state of irritation or sullenness unfavourable to the transaction of political or administrative business; and if our reputation for decent dealing, so laboriously built up since 1919, has not been seriously impaired, our thanks are due to the restraining hand of Sir Austen Chamberlain.

Anglo-Egyptian affairs were therefore likely to be so clarified by the mere substitution for Lord Lloyd of a High Commissioner willing to further the aims of the British Government that (unless it were for perhaps preponderant considerations of general policy) it might have seemed prudent to do that and no more, and to watch the results in isolation. As it was, proposals described as representing the extreme limit of concession were made in circumstances which placed special hindrances in the way of their ratification by Egypt. We witnessed the oddities of a Labour Government negotiating with a so-called dictator, and an imperfectly established dictator at that; of prominent members of the Party simultaneously engaged in damaging him by agreeable conversations with his keenest enemies; and of the dictator then required not only to refrain from his own intended method of consulting the Egyptian people, but to recommend the proposals from a position of weakness best calculated to discredit them. It would have looked more reasonable to await Egypt's return to constitutionalism, either through Mohammed Mahmud Pasha or in spite of him and anyone else, than to throw this "final" offer into the air without counter-responsibility or any guarantee of acceptance.

However, since their present relations irk Sir Austen Chamberlain's elephant and paralyze his mouse, let us pin our faith to the generosity of the proposals, and indulge a hope that the very oddity of the procedure may baffle the imp who delights to forbid the banns of this—to quote Sir Austen again—providentially foreordained marriage. And meanwhile, with a tribute to the variously abstemious and helpful behaviour of her late guardian, Mohammed Mahmud Pasha, and the present matchmakers, Sir Percy Loraine and Mustafa Nahas Pasha, let us glance at the state of the ambitious and bewildered bride.

That twelve Ministries have held office in eight years sufficiently exemplifies the unstable condition in which the conflicting forces of Party, Crown, and Great Britain have kept Egyptian affairs. But while we, through having to maintain our unilateral declaration of 1922, may have prevented Egypt from coming to some sort of rest (in what awkward posture is another matter), our influence has doubtless limited the violence of the oscillations between autocracy and demagoguery. As it is, each new Government has commonly taken office in circumstances engendering a bitter factiousness and spent its few months in abrogating the inchoate measures of its predecessors, barely preparing its own, persecuting its opponents, and shifting, shelving, or sacking a host of officials for obeying the orders of those lately in authority over them. Though the Egyptian Executive has on the whole borne stoutly the burden cast from the shoulders of many hundreds of retiring foreign officials, it has been disheartened by change and revenge, and much of the native energy released by the nationalist movement has been deliberately immobilized or absorbed in vain dispute.

So inveterate had these faults become by 1928, and, whatever their deeper causes, so much sustenance did they draw from the Anglo-Egyptian controversy, factiously exploited in unreal aspects, that Mohammed Mahmud Pasha was justified enough in taking up the cause of internal reform and setting aside for the moment that of complete independence. Though his predecessor, Nahas Pasha, was improperly dismissed, and though, despite the flagrant abuses of parliamentary life, the reasons given for the partial suspension of the Constitution were probably inadequate, it should be remembered that Mahmud Pasha, fundamentally a constitutionalist, did deliberately seek to secure it against more radical attack, that he showed himself to be a governing man ready to face important issues, put new energy into the administration and new confidence into business, and even enjoyed some months of popularity. He shortened his expectation of life as Prime Minister by troubling little, and that with no Parliament to back him, to conciliate either King Fuad or Lord Lloyd, by condoning acts of oppression and favouritism hardly tolerable from an unconstitutional Government, by failing to repudiate the vulgar title of Dictator, and, owing to the barrier the capitulatory regime sets to any thorough programme of reform, being prematurely drawn into discussing with the British Government questions which could not be settled except through general negotiations.

Autocracy being, as they say, the only form of government that Egyptians understand, their attachment to constitutionalism is not to be wondered at. No party ventures to advertise anything else, though the Ittihadists are understood to favour a species of constitutionalism compatible with Ministerial responsibility to the Crown. The suspicion that sticks to the Liberal Constitutionalists is different. They may derive from the chief artificers of the Constitution, comprise the most eminent of the early Wafdists, claim to have notably furthered by diplomacy the national cause; but they are tainted by compromise and co-operation, and have somewhat the complexion of a polite and exclusive oligarchy, inheritors of the distrust attaching to Pashadom.

The Wafd, well organized, obviously Egyptian in their virtues and vices, advertising the purest brand of liberty and patriotism, and yielding to no argument but force, have kept an easy popularity. But it follows that they have discounted their effectiveness in office. Since to the mass of Egyptians liberty is still the antithesis of government, they have a coat of anti-governmental paint to scrape off; while diplomatically they are hampered by interpretations of "complete independence" which Zaghlul would doubtless have evaded, but chanced to consecrate by death. Moreover, the Wafd's practice of shedding capable men seems to point to some incongruity between party purity and diplomatic and administrative experience.

These are hindrances to their achieving any treaty; there are others peculiar to the present attempt. On the one hand, the Wafd, considering their self-esteem and their future, cannot accept as they stand proposals made to Mahmud Pasha; the more his name is by lapse of time dissociated from them, the better the chance of coming to terms. But, on the other hand, and more important, delay is dangerous; to-day the Wafdist Government can claim to speak for a united party, representative, on the mere showing of the elections, of a fairly united country, but if they wait they will be caught up by domestic intrigues, and, negotiating with suspicious glances homeward, be tempted by past experience to recruit new popularity by breaking off discussions.

Still, the field for agitation is not what it was, and if the Wafd want a treaty it is because the country wants one, and because they reckon on more durable office with one than without; in which they are probably right, for it is unlikely that Nahas Pasha, simple-minded, unresourceful, and, as he would be, a proved impossibilist, would long resist the disruptive tendencies of Egyptian politics.

And the Wafdist leaders are not only wanting a treaty but going the right way to get one. They have kept Mr. Henderson's proposals off the hustings, and seem disposed to save them from detailed discussion in the Chamber; they have disturbed the executive less than might have been expected and British interests not at all; and when the Nationalist members, recalling how they worried Zaghlul in 1924 and foreseeing the crux of the coming negotiations, raised the cry "Sudan for Egypt," they refused to be rattled. That they will preserve their new-found realism up to and through the discussions in London is to be hoped by anyone who cares to see in Egypt some stability of constitutional government, some persistent administrative progress, and a closer relation between the politicians and the appropriate interests of the electors.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES

THE Road Traffic Bill, in its present form, seems to be almost an agreed measure. The trouble will come over the clauses struck out by the Lords, the substance of which the Government proposes to reinstate by tacking on the Omnibus Bill in Committee. On Tuesday we were dealing with the non-controversial part, and the debate might well have been a short one. Unfortunately, almost every member either owns a motor-car, or has nearly been run over by one. Consequently we are all road-traffic experts in our own estimation. No one, however, could charge the members who spoke with exceeding the speed limit; they rather gave the impression of competing in a non-stop reliability test. But from any strictures upon the dullness of the discussion Mr. Herbert Morrison must certainly be excluded. He presented his Bill in admirable style, and is one of the pronounced successes of this Government.

* * *

On Wednesday the most important business was the Charing Cross Bridge Bill. Much acrimonious opposition to this measure has appeared in the Press, and Sir Martin Conway went so far as to say that every body of intelligent men in the country is against it. The House promptly disclaimed intelligence by passing the Second Reading with 230 votes against 62. This sweeping majority may have been due in part to the skill of the Minister of Transport in dealing with alternative suggestions, and in part to the support of Colonel Ashley which identified the official view of the late Government with that of its successor. But probably the general feeling was best expressed by Mr. Percy Harris (himself no enthusiast for the L.C.C. plan), when he said, "I realize that if this Bill were rejected we should be back to the quarrels of architects and artists; and there would be no agreement, and the result would be that someone else would have the £12,000,000." There is a general impatience for immediate action in this and other matters; and incidentally it is just this impatience which the Mandarins of the Press are trying to harness to their imperial push-and-go-cart.

Earlier in the evening the House was engaged upon two High-financial resolutions. The first, dealing with Bank amalgamations, was moved with considerable weight and knowledge by Sir John Ferguson and Mr. Wardlaw-Milne. The second raised the whole question of the incidence of taxation upon industry. Mr. Mond and Mr. Boothby made a good combination in its opening, and it was unfortunate that time did not allow a more adequate discussion. The four speeches to which reference has been made might give rise to gloomy reflections upon the workings of the system under which a party with clearly so much of real value to say is impelled to devote so much of its energies to barren obstruction.

Of this unfruitful activity a good example was provided the very next day upon the motion to empower the Committee to consolidate the Road Traffic and Omnibus Bills. This proposal had precedent and convenience in its favour, and against it only the dislike of the Official Opposition for the second Bill. Yet Colonel Acland-Troyte claimed with pride that, whereas no Liberal or Labour member had spoken in support of Mr. Morrison, a dozen Tories had raised their voices against him. But the twelve had in fact only one speech between them and might have saved much time by chanting it in unison like an infants' school. The rules of the House would perhaps not have allowed this, and, in any case, time-saving was hardly the object in view.

Later a Foreign Office supplementary estimate raised an interesting discussion on appropriations in aid, in the course of which Mr. Dalton got into certain difficulties. These were due, according to Sir John Ganzoni, to his total failure to explain to Mr. Leif Jones how there could possibly be an increased demand for passports to a Prohibition country.

Sir E. Hilton Young's Bill for the Preservation of Rural Amenities drew and deserved an unusual degree of attention. It was a subject upon which orators were inspired to poetry and even economists to eloquence; and one would have liked above all to hear Mr. Baldwin, for there is no one more suited to such an occasion by taste and temperament. His place was, however, worthily filled. The mover, Mr. Noel Baker, and Sir Herbert Samuel made notable contributions, but Mr. John Buchan rose above even these formidable competitors in a speech which for sheer beauty of thought and language deserves a place in any future anthology of British Oratory.

On the other hand the amendment moved by Mr. Chuter Ede and Lady Cynthia Mosley should be preserved in a museum. They proposed to "decline to proceed further with a measure which does nothing towards"—a list of objects which might well have concluded with Prohibition and Birth Control. On such negative grounds the House might be invited to refuse a Second Reading to the Ten Commandments. Both mover and seconder expressed approval of every positive proposal in the Bill, and when they withdrew their amendment the wonder remained that it had ever been put down.

The Minister of Health gave his official blessing—almost too official in its tone. He seems reluctant to display any enthusiasm about anything for fear of compromising his department. He showed consideration, however, by concluding in time to give a chance to Mr. Macquisten's Bill

for the Exemption of Playing Fields from Rating. But Mr. Muggeridge thrust himself into the vacant space with the agility of a Musical Chairs Champion. He insisted on describing to the House the refuse dumps and wild cats which one understood to be the special "amenities" of his constituency. His key-words were "malodorous," "fetid," and "putrescent"; all the essentials, in fact, of a modern novel.

It is to be hoped that this fiery trial has purged the soul of Mr. Macquisten; that his own past cruelties to the little Bills of other members flashed starkly before his eyes; in particular that he recalled, not without manly tears, how only the week before he had behaved to Humane Slaughter as a veritable Muggeridge. P. G. Wodehouse would call it "Freddy's Hour of Clear Vision."

But all was not yet lost. When the last cat had been released from the bag and the last refuse-cart had deposited its ghastly load, it still wanted three minutes of four o'clock. Mr. Macquisten had just time to deposit his pathetic infant with a despairing gesture upon the doorstep of the House. Mercy prevailed, and the brat was taken in. Now it goes "upstairs," where it will probably be drowned in its first bath.

Monday was a rag-bag of supplementary estimates. Mr. Lansbury had little difficulty in defending his operations in the Parks, and received spirited support from Sir Archibald Sinclair. But it was a dull night. We spent a few thousands of the taxpayer's money—and so to bed.

ERIMUS.

THE TARIFF TRUCE

THE tariff truce now under discussion is a part, and a logical part, of the policy adopted by the League of Nations at the World Economic Conference of 1927. The Final Report of the Conference, signed by forty-eight countries, pointed to excessive tariffs as one of the main obstacles to the economic prosperity of the world, and the League has conducted a vigorous campaign against them ever since. That does not mean, as some pretend, that it is obsessed by tariffs, and regards their reduction as a panacea for all ills, but merely that it regards such reduction as an essential preliminary condition of economic reorganization. The crying need of industry, especially in Europe, is better organized large-scale production; large-scale production requires efficient distribution and a market capable of absorbing what is produced, and this market can only be secured by the elimination of tariff divisions between countries, or at any rate by the establishment of stable and equal conditions over large areas.

Three methods were proposed by the League for the gradual reduction of tariffs: autonomous tariff legislation, bilateral commercial treaties, and international conventions open to the signature of any country. Unfortunately, owing to tariff instability, nothing came of the first two methods, and the third only touched tariffs in one instance, the International Convention on skins and bones. The inextricable complexity of international economic relations was already a formidable obstacle to the conclusion of bilateral treaties for the reduction of tariffs, and the added impossibility of counting upon even the relative permanence of an essential factor—the tariff level of other countries—rendered this method definitely impracticable. Bilateral

treaties during the last two years have actually tended to increase rather than lessen tariffs. Thus, at the end of 1929 the situation was if anything rather worse than at the time of the World Economic Conference: trade barriers other than tariffs slightly reduced, at any rate *de jure*, and tariffs on the increase. The League of Nations had, therefore, either to admit failure and adopt a policy of *laissez-faire*, or else learn the lesson taught by experience, and modify its policy accordingly. The proposal for a tariff truce is the result, an attempt to create the required atmosphere of stability and confidence.

It was, perhaps, unfortunate that the League of Nations ever used the word "consolidation" in connection with the tariff truce. Tariff "consolidation" gives the impression of immobility in both directions, whereas the League wishes it to be understood that "this undertaking should not lead to any relaxation in the efforts which States are making to reduce their tariffs to the greatest possible extent by autonomous and bilateral action." The feeling that the truce will make all reduction impossible for a period of two or three years alone explains the objection made by certain countries and business organizations, which are sincerely anxious for tariff reduction, that to arrest all action even for a time seems a peculiar way of reducing tariffs. If it had been more clearly realized from the outset that the truce was never intended as a solution in itself but as a means to an end, and that if it stops anything, it will only stop bilateral action from continuing in the wrong direction, many criticisms of this kind would never have been made. The purpose of the tariff truce is *not* to consolidate tariffs, but to make it easier to reduce them, and at the same time to enable those countries with a sufficient community of outlook and interest to work out a system appropriate to their needs, and particularly to secure wider markets for their industries. The League is convinced that little more can be done towards economic reorganization until Governments take a hand officially in the work that it has been doing unofficially ever since its foundation. In fact, the tariff truce means nothing more nor less than the creation of an official federation of inquiry, and with it the environment required for calm reflection.

Whether the Tariff Truce Conference will succeed or not is quite another question from that of the reasonableness or necessity of the truce. It may be eminently desirable, but for the time being impracticable. The central problem, on which depends the success or failure of the Conference, is that of reservations and exceptions. Obviously there must be some exceptions, and countries must be allowed to make some reservations. For instance, are fiscal duties to be excluded from the effects of the truce, and, if so, who is to decide what duties are fiscal and what are not? Countries with low tariffs, such as Britain herself, will almost certainly make their adhesion subject to the insertion of a clause granting them freedom of action in case of systematic dumping. But again, how define dumping? It is so easy for a country to make dumping a pretext for tariff increases whenever another produces and exports goods cheaper and in greater quantities than itself. Then, are farm-produce and food-stuffs to be excluded from the truce? On this point a clash of interests is inevitable. Certain countries are engaged upon the revision of their tariffs in order to bring them up to date or rationalize their nomenclature. The tariff truce can hardly forbid such revision, but what a chance for those who wish to escape the obligations they have assumed! Again, the Preliminary Draft Convention prepared by the Economic Committee of the League of Nations provides for a safeguard clause in case of grave

crisis. But it will have to be decided what is a grave crisis and what is not, whether only general crises are included or crises in individual industries as well; and no international body with the authority required for such a decision yet exists. The relation between the tariff truce and existing or future bilateral treaties is another point fraught with difficulty. Many will be loath to join the truce if other countries to which they are bound by the most-favoured-nation clause can claim all its advantages without giving anything in return. The League may, therefore, be obliged either to modify the unconditional most-favoured-nation clause or to abandon the tariff truce.

Even apart from such questions of detail, the right to make reservations and demand exemptions is bound by its very existence to be a danger to the Truce Conference. Countries which are really opposed to the truce will be in a position to make so many reservations and demand so many exemptions that the truce would be quite valueless if they were accepted; while those that favour the truce may be obliged to make their adhesion subject to that of the very countries which are only ready to accept it if twisted out of all recognition. The situation would then closely resemble that at the International Conference on the Treatment of Foreigners; one side opposed to the Convention but willing to adopt it in a mangled form, the other for the Convention but preferring to do without it rather than sign a mere form devoid of all significance.

RICHARD BARTON.

"I TELL YOU"

THOUGHTS FOR TROUBLED TORIES. (See Posters)

LORD! what a commotion!
The waves of the ocean,
When stirred by the storm to wild harlequinade,
Are calm and pacific
To these, the terrific
Reactions of Beaverbrook's Empire Crusade.

Our voters are swarming
To where he is forming
A fine, brand-new Party to further his ends;
And if his selections
Don't win the elections,
With four-cornered contests they'll ruin their friends.

Here's Austen, recalling
Disasters appalling
That food-taxes brought on Joe Chamberlain's head.
There Amery's musing;
The scheme's of his choosing—
But wouldn't he rather be leader than led?

Will Baldwin, we wonder,
Steal Beaverbrook's thunder,
And give, by instalments, Protection complete?
Should a Tory's devotion,
In all this commotion,
Be paid to his leader, convictions, or seat?

But why all this pother
When noble Lord Rother-
mere's ready to teach us (as we to be taught);
And (seeing us shrinking
As usual, from thinking)
To save us the burdensome process of thought?

What use are opinions
On Tariffs (Dominions')?
What use with Free Traders to bandy back-chat?
Why argue what should be?
Why worry what could be?
Lord Rothermere tells us, "I tell you"—that's that!
MACFLECKNOE.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FEMINISTS AND CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

SIR,—In your issue of February 22nd it is remarked (in the article on "Corporal Punishment") that "incidentally it is instructive to remember that this punishment (flogging) was inserted in the Act covering offences (e) (procuration, &c.) through the insistent instigation of advanced feminists, who ought to have known better."

I know well, because I tried to stem the movement, that some notorious feminists did press for flogging; I should not call them "advanced," but "reactionary" in their singular faith in physical force.

Stated in the way it was by you, it omits to do justice to the fact that many feminists opposed flogging as brutal and ineffective. I myself in the COMMON CAUSE did so. The organization known now as the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene did not press for flogging, and they were all good feminists. I remember in particular a great meeting in support of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill at which an Archbishop advocated flogging, and the one voice raised against it was that of a woman speaker, Lady Barlow, a convinced feminist. Josephine Butler never advocated punishments of this nature.

It is not unnatural that some women, like some men, should have been carried away by brutalitarian arguments. Women are not a race apart. "God made 'em to match the men." But flogging was never on any feminist programme. —Yours, &c.,

H. M. SWANWICK.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

SIR,—In your article on the above subject last week you quote from the experience of a late deputy chaplain of Maidstone Gaol, and, I suppose, expect thereby to excite our sympathy for those whose lot it is to be legally flogged. May I say that, to my mind, the thought of a man's "screams" and "shrieks," audible a hundred yards away, can only move one to loathing for the contemptible and cowardly criminal who cannot take his punishment like a man. I can only wish that the ex-deputy chaplain had given us the satisfaction of knowing what the brute was flogged for. Many of us have had to see our fellow-men in torment from wounds or illness. Have these, I ask, screamed and shrieked? Not in my experience. Their faces, or a hardly suppressed groan, may show what they suffer, but nothing more.—Yours, &c.,

L. W. RENDEL.

Hotel Savoy, Lausanne.

February 24th, 1930.

THE EDUCATION QUESTION

SIR,—I am grateful to Mr. Mundella for challenging an expression in my previous letter which I now see was too vigorous. I write corrected. The Majority of the Archbishops' Commission did not "expressly repudiate" the old aggressive policy of extending the dual system, they "gently dismissed" it. I cannot, however, see that it is fair comment to describe their actual policy in terms of the policy which they have gently dismissed. And it seemed to me that this was the procedure which Mr. Randall adopted. *Pace* Mr. Mundella, I did not take the Commission's rejection of the old policy on page 54 and quote it as "express repudiation" of the new policy on page 64. It was Mr. Randall who took the new policy of page 64 and interpreted it as an aggressive reassertion of the old policy which is gently dismissed on page 54. If Mr. Randall did not do this, I intervened under a misapprehension, but I have looked again at his article, and I cannot see that it will convey any other impression to anyone who has not read the Commission's Report.

I should like to explain why I felt it to be worth while to intervene. I hold no brief for the policy embodied in the Commission's Report, but the Report and its adoption by the Church Assembly mark a real change in Church-opinion on the future of national education. The Church of England has at least rethought the whole position and has moved quite definitely from the aggressive denominational school

policy of 1902. No good can come from ignoring this change of attitude or from supposing, as both Mr. Randall and Mr. Mundella seem to suppose, that Church-policy remains exactly as it was. Mr. Mundella, in his letter, describes the policy of the Majority of the Archbishops' Commission as identical with the policy of extreme Churchmen. There must be something wrong in a judgment of that kind. To suggest, as Mr. Mundella suggests, that the Majority Report makes quibbling distinctions between a "building grant" and a "special grant," between "building" and "enlargement" in order to conciliate public opinion or to get round the existing law, is surely to exceed the limits of fair comment. The Commission are perfectly clear that their policy requires an alteration in the present law, and they conceal nothing. I am not prepared simply to accept the policy of the Majority Report, but neither am I prepared to reject it out of hand with Mr. Mundella and Mr. Randall. As a Free Churchman anxious to secure an advance in national education without reopening religious conflicts, I am willing to examine and discuss it, and I have no intention of approaching it in the spirit of the controversies of 1902.—Yours, &c.,

H. G. WOOD.

Woodbrooke.

February 21st, 1930.

THE STATE AND THE SCHOOLS

SIR,—May I reply very briefly to Sir Michael Sadler's courteous and fair criticism of my article on Roman Catholic Schools?

If I interpret his view rightly, I do not agree with him that the truce in education, so far as Roman Catholics are concerned, has not been bought by *danegeld*. The method of *danegeld* has, of course, not been obvious; but two threats that Roman Catholics do not hesitate to use wring from the State monetary concessions which would otherwise be withheld. In the first place, when the Roman Catholic Church instructs parents to refuse to send their children to State Schools, the State permits itself to make concessions because it would not have Roman Catholic children grow up ignorant; not because it favours Roman Catholicism. Secondly, when the Roman Catholic Church opposes the reorganization of Central Schools, the State tends to give way rather than sacrifice the unity of its plans. Not only has *danegeld* been the chief weapon in the past, but so long as politicians continue to recognize the right of Roman Catholics to use such threats, it will be the chief weapon in the future.

Secondly, Sir Michael Sadler postulates "that by education we seek to strengthen social unity." In this he seems to ignore a psychological distinction between actions which are motivated by knowledge and actions which are motivated by belief, and thus he leads himself into a contradiction which, I think, he would prefer to avoid. In my view the chief concern of State education should be the promotion of action which is inspired by knowledge; the teaching of beliefs to young children before they are old enough to think, or when they are emotionally confused by their knowledge and physical growth, is a concession which can be granted to the Churches and paid for by them out of their own money. Otherwise, it is, to my mind, kindest to permit adults to acquire their religious beliefs according to their emotional needs when their knowledge is more fully developed than the State can afford to develop it.

If, however, Sir Michael Sadler does not recognize this psychological distinction between two types of motivation, I do not understand why his postulate cannot be used to justify the full Roman Catholic or the full Communistic claim to control education.

I should add, in case I am misrepresented, that I am not opposed to the teaching of ethics or social behaviour to young people. One of the gravest and cruellest drawbacks arising out of the control which the Churches still retain over State Schools is that no curriculum of this kind of knowledge has yet been drawn up for use in State Schools. —Yours, &c.,

R. G. RANDALL.

February 25th, 1930.

THE SOUTH-WEST AFRICAN MANDATE

SIR,—Mr. Hawkin's letter on the South-West African mandate contains two errors of fact. It says: "A mandate carries a guarantee of equality of treatment to all League nationals and a guarantee to maintain neutrality." The "Open Door" provision is included in the Arabian and Central African mandates, but not in the "C's"—South-West Africa and the Pacific Island areas. Again, the military training of the natives save for police purposes, and naval or military bases is forbidden. But this is in no sense a guarantee of neutrality; in war South-West would count as part of South Africa.

At the same time the main contentions of Mr. Hawkin deserve warm support. It is a great pity if General Smuts has advertised the idea that South-West Africa is to be included in the Union. I was not aware that he had said so—his Oxford lectures were remarkable for the absence of any reference to the mandated area. Many believed this silence to be due to a reluctance to discuss the region of a broken pledge. For General Smuts, as Prime Minister of the Union, was responsible for the inception of the policy under which South-West Africa is ruled, and that policy is the complete negation of the mandate. South Africa is bound to rule the area as a trust for native welfare, whereas she runs it as a trust for settler wealth, and is destroying the natives in the process. Such measures as are taken to preserve the natives are avowedly designed merely to maintain the labour supply; but the general system of inadequate reserves, conscription of labour, draining of the tribes, and absence of any attempt to help the natives to become self-supporting or develop their own civilization, results in wholesale demoralization.

Mr. Hawkin need not be alarmed, however, that South-West Africa will be annexed. It belongs territorially to the Principal Allied and Associated Powers, who are not likely to present it to South Africa. The terms of the mandate can only be altered by consent of the League Council, which has repeatedly shown that it will only consent to modifications certain to further native welfare. The Council is well aware that the less native Africans belong to South Africa, the better for them. Finally, the mandatory status of the area is part of the League Covenant; its modification means a Covenant amendment, ratified by all fourteen Council States, and the majority of the fifty-four League States. Now the only end envisaged by the Covenant for a mandate is when the League is satisfied that the natives are ready for self-government, when their period of "tutelage" under "trust" will terminate in independence. Self-government by white settlers is barred from this consideration. When they become fully self-governing, the natives of South-West Africa will be free to join the Union of South Africa. But this is the only method by which the area can be "annexed"; and it does not seem an immediate prospect.

—Yours, &c.,

FREDA WHITE.

12, Great Ormond Street, W.C.1.
February 22nd, 1930.

GANDHI AND THOREAU

SIR,—The doctrine of Civil Disobedience, in view of the manner in which it is being applied by Mr. Gandhi, cannot be said to be in very good favour at the present time; nevertheless, it may be worth while to recall the fact that it is not the East only that is responsible for so unsettling a maxim, but that the West must equally bear its portion of the guilt, inasmuch as Gandhi had a distinguished predecessor in Thoreau.

It was as a protest against the United States war with Mexico, and the sanction then given to negro slavery, that Thoreau, in 1845, found himself in antagonism to the State, and, refusing to pay his taxes, was arrested and thrown into prison. "Henry, why are you here?" was the question put to him by Emerson; and his characteristic answer was, "Why are you *not* here?" The incident ended, tamely enough, in the tax being paid by Thoreau's relatives; but his essay on "Civil Disobedience," written two or three years later, is a forcible statement of the conditions under which, as it seemed to the writer, a man is justified in rebellion without violence.

Possibly it has occurred to some readers of Thoreau to wonder whether Gandhi, of whose civil disobedience we have for a long time heard so much, had read that essay; and it was at the suggestion of an American friend that, presuming on a slight acquaintance with him through our practice of vegetarianism, I ventured to write and ask him the question. His answer (I quote from a letter dated October 12th, 1929) was as follows:—

"My first introduction to Thoreau's writings was, I think, in 1907, or later, when I was in the thick of the passive resistance struggle. A friend sent me the essay on 'Civil Disobedience.' It left a deep impression upon me. I translated a portion for the readers of 'Indian Opinion in South Africa,' which I was then editing, and I made copious extracts for the English part of that paper. The essay seemed to be so convincing and truthful that I felt the need of knowing more of Thoreau, and I came across your Life of him, his 'Walden,' and other shorter essays, all of which I read with great pleasure and equal profit."

So it would seem that if there is trouble in India, over the practice of Civil Disobedience, Thoreau must be credited with his share of the blame, or of the praise, according to the point of view from which the question is regarded.—Yours, &c.,

HENRY S. SALT.

"PRESENTING" AND "PRODUCING"

SIR,—Sir Nigel Playfair's letter alarms me. I thought he was one of the few theatrical managers in London who appreciated the function of the producer, and now I find him saying that a Pinero play cannot be produced, because the author's directions leave no room for interference. What, then, is the process? Does he just hand the parts to the actors, and let them do their best—or worst? Does he trust their skill and intelligence so far as to be quite confident that perfect harmony of conception and performance will result? The typical Edwardian drama did, perhaps, lend itself to this method, but it is fatal to generalize from this one example.

Two serious points are raised, when we are asked to put our trust in stage directions. It is assumed that these are adequate, which can hardly ever be the case. Musical notation, with its exact time values, is infinitely more precise than the written word of drama, and it has its own elaborate language of "expression marks" as well, and yet a Beethoven Symphony needs a conductor, not merely to wave a stick at the performance, but to impose an interpretation at rehearsal. The second dangerous assumption is that the author knows best how his play should be presented on the stage. This also is not usually true. He may know what effect he wants, but he probably does not know the best way to get it. Very often there may be dramatic possibilities in his play that he himself has not realized.

But Sir Nigel says he is prepared to "produce" new plays. He does, therefore, agree that the author needs expert help when he enters the theatre. Where, then, is the infallibility of these sacred directions? Does he mean that the word of the first producer who collaborates with the author must be final? Would he have been willing to produce "The Apple Cart," but not "Man and Superman," last year? As he truly says, "it is all very confusing." Won't he tell us what he really means?—Yours, &c.,

T. H. MARSHALL.

Long Crendon.

February 23rd, 1930.

SIR,—I will confess to begin with that I have not seen, as yet, Sir Nigel Playfair's revival of "Dandy Dick," but may I, in defence of a colleague, be allowed to make a few observations on Sir Nigel Playfair's most peculiar letter in your last number? As he truly says, important matters of vocabulary and theatrical technique are involved.

Sir Nigel says that he would only claim to be a producer "when the precise directions are lost, obscure, or, in my opinion, perhaps wrong, to be bettered."

Sir Nigel then almost confounds production with stage directions. This seems to me an extraordinary statement. Do the speed, or varying speeds, at which a play is to be taken, the interpretation, which cannot be rigid, of the text, the combination of stresses necessary for giving proper

balance to a play, the lighting, the main directions, at any rate, about costume and back-cloths, the view to be adopted of the characters and their relative importance, go for nothing? Apparently Sir Nigel considers this "presentation," while the "production" which we had been educated to believe was the work of one artist conceiving the play with its innumerable implications, and producing out of this conception an æsthetic unity, is a mere matter of stage directions. Does Sir Nigel really think this, and do practising producers agree with him? If so, I quite admit that critics must alter their vocabulary from top to bottom. But his letter was news to me, and will be, I am certain, to many people.

Or does Sir Nigel only mean that on this particular occasion Sir Arthur Pinero was present at every rehearsal, and took a leading part at those rehearsals, in fact, "produced" the play in the ordinary sense of the word himself? But this explanation seems contradicted by an earlier sentence in Sir Nigel's letter. And in any case, how can Sir Nigel "produce" even new plays (as he states) if the author gives adequate "directions" in the text?

I hope Sir Nigel Playfair will explain his point of view in more detail.—Yours, &c.,

FRANCIS BIRRELL.

70, Elm Park Road, Chelsea, S.W.

SIR,—The theatrical terminology of which Sir Nigel Playfair writes was born of the system of sub-letting and sub-sub-letting playhouses, as a result of which most of our theatres are run on an uneconomic or potentially uneconomic basis. Many a worthy production has had to be withdrawn because it was not playing to good enough houses to fill the purse not only of the "presenter," but of three or four other persons or syndicates whose sole interest in the drama is to make money from their tenancies or sub-tenancies or sub-sub-tenancies of theatres. But there are a few honourable exceptions to the rule, and the Lyric, Hammersmith, is one. This being so, it would, one would have thought, have been more consonant with the ideals for which Sir Nigel manifestly stands if he were content with printing on his playbills "Lessee and Manager, Sir Nigel Playfair," thus reverting to a hallowed tradition, dispensing with the (in his case) unnecessary word "presents," and eliminating the confusion between "presenting" and "producing" which, he suggests, exists in playgoers' minds—though it does not, let me assure him, in my own.

As for his point about the scope of a producer, surely he is being over-modest. However explicit a playwright's stage-directions may be, there must be someone in charge of rehearsals to interpret, if not to amplify, those directions. With some authors this functionary may have a great deal to do, with others less (Mr. Ashley Dukes contends that all stage directions other than actual exits and entrances are his business, and none the author's), but I submit that in all cases he may properly be described as a "producer."—Yours, &c.,

OMICRON.

February 24th, 1930.

THE ROMAN INDEX

SIR,—I was very interested in the letter from "J. A. B." published in last week's issue of THE NATION, for in it I learned that the Roman Index does not apply to Great Britain. I remember once mentioning to my old Benedictine tutor (i.e., he was a member of the Benedictine Order) that I was trying to read Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations." On hearing this he said, with a twinkle in his eye: "Did I know that the book was on the Index?" He did not forbid me to read it; but if it be true that the book is on the Index, the "fact" seems to contradict "J. A. B.'s" contention, for the book would hardly be banned for the sake of mere possible translators into other languages. Poor old Adam Smith!

In any case I do not think that nowadays Catholics bother very much as to what the Vatican does or does not put on the Index. In this there is a resemblance to the "fasting" decree which is more honoured in the breach than in the observance.—Yours, &c.,

"TOURNEBROCHE."

February 20th, 1930.

C. P. SANGER

SIR,—I know that C. P. Sanger would wish corrected an error in G. L. D.'s article in this week's NATION. Vassiliev's "Space, Time, and Motion" was translated mainly by Mrs. Frank Lucas, with whom he collaborated, and with whom he used frequently to read Russian, also German and Greek.

I may add that he was a great lover and a keen student of the Divine Comedy, and the last book he read with critical appreciation was Mr. T. S. Eliot's essay on Dante.—Yours, &c.,

A. D. S.

58, Oakley Street,
Chelsea, S.W.3.
February 25th, 1930.

BOOK REVIEWS

SIR,—It is very tantalizing of "W. D." to say that I missed the point of "A Farewell to Arms," and to leave it at that. An exposition of the true interpretation of "A Farewell to Arms" would interest all readers of Mr. Hemingway's novel, and might set the reviewer upon the desired path towards better reviewing and worse writing.—Yours, &c.,

LYN LL. IRVINE.

PRESIDENT MASARYK

SIR,—Few more outstanding figures emerged from the world upheaval than that of President T. G. Masaryk, of Czechoslovakia, whose eightieth birthday falls on March 7th. His whole career is like a romance, from humble origin as son of a Slovak coachman of Hodonin, South Moravia, education under difficulties and paid for out of scanty earnings, studies in philosophy at Leipzig and Vienna, and success as professor of that subject at the Charles University, Prague, and political career as a Bohemian deputy in the Austrian Parliament. Thus he rose "from log cabin to White House," like the Americans Lincoln and Garfield.

The life of Masaryk is marked by singular moral courage. As a boy he suspected the rigid mediævalism of the local parish priest, and had to leave Brno gymnasium on account of differences with the director over confession. (As I have seen, the school which rusticated the outspoken pupil bears a tablet in honour of the President.) In conjunction with the late philologist Gebauer, Masaryk exposed the series of pseudo-patriotic poems "discovered" by the librarian Hanka. These had considerable influence—by no means worthless—on Czech art and music, but Masaryk showed that patriotism is not served by reliance on romantic concoctions. Known as "Socrates" by his students, he was wrongly accused in high quarters of perverting youth. He was the champion of the unfortunate Jew Hilsner in a ritual murder trial. In the Zahreb (Agram) "treason trials" Masaryk, at personal risk, exposed the shady proceedings of the prosecution, and denounced forgeries very different from those of Hanka.

Masaryk lectured at King's College during war years, and inaugurated the Slavonic School by a lecture on the problem of small nations. Convinced that the old Habsburg Empire was fated to collapse, Masaryk foresaw the rise of Succession States, and successfully urged upon President Wilson and other leaders the need for an independent Czechoslovakia. He has been compared to Pericles, the glory of Athens, and to Epaminondas, who stood for little Boeotian Thebes. It was appropriate that the long-desired Brno University should bear his name, which will be given to a Palestine forest.

At first sight the tall, slightly bent form, with shrewd but kindly eyes behind pince-nez, and grey hair and beard suggests a companion of Plato in the groves of Academe, but Masaryk is also the organizer and man of action. Though now Nestor, Masaryk is still *anax andron* like Agamemnon, and has seen many men and cities like Ulysses. In younger days he took part in the gymnastic exercises of the Sokol (falcon) brotherhood, and is still a fine equestrian.

His friends all over the world, and even his opponents, will wish the veteran President many years of happiness and success.—Yours, &c.,

FRANCIS P. MARCHANT.

Streatham.

THE NAVAL CONFERENCE

SIR,—The difficulties of securing a real advance towards achieving something beyond a temporary or mere reduction in armaments through the Naval Conference are immense. Nevertheless, is it not possible to make a beginning in the creation of some arrangement or procedure which will enable us to get clear of the vicious circle of competing armaments?

Security is in the main what nations are most desirous of obtaining. Should we not approach the whole question from a different standpoint, introduce the spirit of Locarno, and in a practical manner formulate a policy which will guarantee security, and therefore go a long way towards ensuring the peace of the world?

It appears to me there are two ways of doing this. One method would be by a mandate of the Powers to allocate to certain countries the responsibility for the maintenance of law and order and the prevention of aggression in particular seas. The other way which suggests itself would be through the agency of an International Navy or Police Force responsible to the League of Nations or Council of the Powers. If either of these methods was adopted a feeling of security would be encouraged in the minds of the various peoples, with the result that disarmament would follow. I suggest, therefore, before the Conference closes, that a Committee of representatives of the various delegations might be appointed to draw up a scheme for consideration on the lines suggested.—Yours, &c.,

D. M. MASON.

February 24th, 1930.

MEREDITH IN DEVON

NO Gentleman's Library is complete without them, those books one vows to read on holiday, Morley's "Life of Gladstone," "Daniel Deronda," the "Ring and the Book," Karl Marx . . . a mournful procession of neglected duties. They wear a shining morning face, but in the pleasant tiredness of evening we make them our poor fallible excuses and pass them by, in favour of tripe. There is no other word for the contents of the seaside library, soft spongy stuff, easy on the stomach. Yet tripe has its relish. But this year, without warning, appetite for tripe, even the triple tripe of the lady novelists, sickened and so died. Reading was possible in the garden, and from the hill the intimate English scene, so formless and accidental at first sight, built up, ring upon ring, over the centuries, as it is studied, lay in mellow light that is like an old secret varnish. At such a time all reading was almost irrelevant, but the genius of the place discovered, faded and dusty, the small familiar volumes of Meredith's poems.

How fully they are part of the landscape! Is there another poet, save Shakespeare and, perhaps, Keats, who so loved the English scene and told his love with such joyful inventory of beauty? Meredith is a poet of nature; that is a commonplace. It was his duty, as a responsible Victorian bard, to sing about the return to Nature, and "being anew in Nature dipped." But that was a professional interest in Nature, whom, in his heart of hearts, he probably considered "a Rum 'un," like Squeers. To that Nature Wordsworth turned, as a believer goes to church, and was comforted, but it lay outside him, impersonal, distant. Meredith comes home, like a boy from school, to Earth, and is for ever being surprised by the loveliness of the familiar things he sees around him. They belong to him, Earth has given them. Though she is a stern mother, training her children, without pity, to fine ends, she "loves her young"; she lives in them and they in her, "Earth was not Earth before her sons appeared"; there is certainty with her as with a mother in her home.

The living things in Meredith's poetry, the lines and

verses we carry about as a viaticum, are not thoughts about nature, but little pictures of the Earth, glimpses of what he sees in walks; what we, too, have seen but soon forget. "Come into the woods of Westermain," he says, "and I will teach you some lesson." Then he forgets the lesson, and points, "Look there, but be quiet."

"Here the snake across your path
Stretches in his golden bath;
Yaffles on a chuckle skim
Low to laugh from branches dim. . . ."

Why, it was only over by Merrow that we, too, saw that, years ago; it comes back!

It is not all Earth in place of Nature; even more local and intimate, he quickens his poetry from the South of England with its woods and brooks and villages and commons and downs, the close and peopled land of the home counties. In this patch of Earth there is little epic or elemental, but much homeliness, to which a man turns again at the end. Has not another poet of the South sung with gay defiance:—

"Ye are not great, O hills of Kent,
That is to say, in size!"

Melampus gives his reading of Earth,

"For him the woods were a home and gave him the key
Of knowledge, thirst for treasures in herbs and flowers,
The secret held by the creatures nearer than we
To earth he sought, and the link of their lives with ours."

These are the small friendly woods of Surrey and Hampshire and the West,

"The wooded pathways dank on brown,
The branches on grey cloud a web,
The long green rollers of the down."

There are men and women and children in this small land, sons of the Earth, in the villages, and there they are in the poems, as living English as the country dwellers of Hardy. Half our neighbouring countryside is in

Juggling Jerry:—

"Up goes the lark as if all were jolly!
Over the duck-pond the willow shakes. . . .
Here's where the lads of the village cricket;
I was a lad not wide from here.
Couldn't I whip off the bail from the wicket?
Like an old world those days appear!
Donkey, sheep, geese, and thatched ale-house; I know them."

Like an old world those days appear, and little by little the verses build up a vanishing England, deepening in beauty to the last.

"Yonder came smells of the gorse so nutty,
Gold-like and warm; it's the prime of May.
Better than mortar, brick and putty
Is God's house on a blowing day.
Lean me more up on the mound; now I feel it:
All the old heath-smells! Ain't it strange?
There's the world laughing, as if to conceal it,
But He's by us, juggling the change."

"I mind it well, by the sea-beach lying,
Once—it's long gone—when two gulls we beheld,
Which, as the moon got up, were flying
Down a big wave that sparked and swelled.
Crack! went a gun; one fell, the second
Wheeled round him twice and was off for new luck.
There in the dark her white wing beckon'd—
Drop me a kiss—I'm the bird dead struck!"

The same humorous, contented love of the country (true mood of the holiday) is in the *Old Chartist*,

"And just for joy to see old England wink
Thro' leaves again, I could harangue the herds,"

as he watches the brown water-rat washing his poll among the elms and yellow reed flags in the sun.

Nothing is incongruous to him; with a chuckle he notes it all carefully and paints it in its place, to add to the rich variety of the scene. When Demeter has cursed the land for the loss of her daughter, he likens the weak-tongued voices of the parched and starving people to

"The cluck and upper quiver of a hen
In grasp, past pecking; cry before the croak,"
a living picture. And it is part of Meredith that the curse
is broken on the laughter of the Goddess:—

"She laughed herself to water; laughed to fire,
Laughed the torrential laugh of dam and sire
Full of the marrowy race.

Her laughter, Gods! was flesh on skeleton."

He enjoyed being out of doors, openly and boisterously, and it set off his sly-glancing English twist of fun. The poet for a holiday!

In the Devon garden the twilight, "low-lidded twilight" obscures the printed page; the line of the hills is blurred and colour is fading in the valley; a queesting owl shrieks over the hedge in the glebe field across the road. The response is inevitable, and instinct and memory turn to what is the most lovely and the most English of all the poems, the coloured procession of the four seasons of the English countryside passing the eyes of a lover. Almost at random the pictures are evoked:—

"When her mother tends her before the laughing mirror,
Tying up her laces, looping up her hair,
Often she thinks, were this wild thing wedded
More love should I have and much less care.
When her mother tends her before the lighted mirror,
Loosening her laces, combing down her curls,
Often she thinks, were this wild thing wedded,
I should miss but one for many boys and girls. . . ."

No wonder Stevenson was excited by that.

"Happy, happy time when the white star hovers
Low over dim fields fresh with bloomy dew
Near the face of dawn that draws athwart the darkness
Threading it with colour, like yewberries the yew.
Thicker crowd the shades as the grave East deepens
Glowing, and with crimson a long cloud swells.
Maiden still the morn is, and strange she is and secret,
Strange her eyes; her cheeks are cold as cold sea-shells."

Which shall it be now,

"Yellow with stonecrop; the moss-mounds are yellow,
Blue-necked the wheat sways, yellowing to the sheaf,"

or the slow noon-tide verse:—

"Doves of the fir-wood, walling high our red roof
Through the long noon coo, crooning through the coo.
Loose droop the leaves, and down the sleepy roadway
Sometimes pipes a chaffinch; loose droops the blue?"

No, best of all and most attuned to time and scene:—

"Lovely are the curves of the white owl sweeping
Wavy in the dusk lit by one large star.
Lone on the fir-branch, his rattle-notes unvaried,
Brooding o'er the gloom, spins the brown eve-jar.
Darker grows the valley, more and more forgetting. . . ."

W. G.

THE ITALIAN EXHIBITION—IX*

PROBABLY the most discussed picture in Burlington House—the one over which people have argued most heatedly—is the "Tempest," by Giorgione (No. 156). This fact alone is evidence of its powerful emanation. No one can be indifferent to it, and few feel about it except in extremes of admiration or dislike. It is, therefore, one of those pictures about which it is almost impossible to speak other than subjectively. It might be possible to explain, even to one who did not respond to it naturally, the peculiar perfections of Raphael's portraits or the marvellous formal organization of Fra Bartolommeo's "Holy Family," but before Giorgione's "Tempest" analysis gives scarcely any decisive results. To those who, like myself, are moved by it as much, if not more, than by any other picture in the world, the unexpected conjunction of these various elements and their relations in an imagined space have a significance which is of the profoundest importance, but which remains utterly inexplicable.

* Mr. Roger Fry's previous articles on the Italian Exhibition have appeared in our last eight issues.

It has for us that super-reality and inevitability that belongs to the dream world, and indeed I suspect that what gives to this vision its magical power is the fact that Giorgione drew it from sources deep in his own unconscious being. One feels that its genesis is not unlike that of Coleridge's "Ancient Mariner," only that the experiences which re-emerge into consciousness, thus miraculously synthesized, were in Giorgione's case of a more profound kind than in Coleridge's.

Giorgione was one of those instances of a man of extraordinary genius born into the situation where his innate powers were capable of exercising their utmost effect. The Pagan revival was overdue in Venice. The Venetians, like many commercial people, were a little suspicious of new ideas. They had shown no anxiety to take over the new-old Greek gods from the "intellectuals" of Florence. But Paganism was bound to come, nevertheless, and even Giovanni Bellini, in spite of his declared repugnance to non-Christian painting, had had to put his name to the "Feast of the Gods." There was, then, a clear field for a man of Giorgione's passionate and sensual temperament; "who delighted continually in matters of Love; who played and sang so divinely that he was often invited to the concerts and parties of noble persons."

Those few phrases of Vasari give us almost all we need in order to picture to ourselves the author of the "Tempest." He reminds us so constantly of Keats that we seem to recognize at once that happier, more fortunately placed, previous incarnation. For, as with Keats, it is Venus that leads back the ancient Gods, and as with Keats, the new classicism spells Romance; and Giorgione's creations, as we have seen, have the same hypnagogic quality as the visions of some of our own Romantic poets.

And yet we must distinguish. Perhaps all the greatest Romantics are Classics, just as all the great Classic artists have a Romantic spirit somewhere within them. For Giorgione certainly is a Classic in the sense that his form is never stressed deliberately. He allows his theme to emerge of itself and to unfold according to its own necessities; he never stands by to point out its beauties, to emphasize here and underline there. As we can see in the "Tempest," although the result seems to us to belong to a world of magical romantic significance, he does not choose from life the things that are most romantic in their associations. Those sunlit towers that gleam rose and white against the blue thundercloud are only the walls of his own Castelfranco, and as much matters of fact to him as Oxford Street to us. That bridge which invites our imagined steps so alluringly is, after all, a very commonplace wooden bridge. Those two broken columns on their brick base are not the ruins of a Roman temple such as Titian would almost certainly have indulged in. They seem rather to have been picked up casually in some stonemason's backyard. And the nude woman suckling her child is just that and no more, she is neither beautiful nor noble, and there is even a touch of squalor in her awkwardly draped linen cloth. It is a piece of pure realism, only it is seen with the passionate intensity of a lover. And even the young man, though he is painted in a slightly different vein from the rest, is hardly more than a Venetian dandy of the day. Giorgione's point of view is, then, almost exactly that of Manet's in his "Déjeuner sur l'herbe." The immense difference between the emanations of the two pictures is a difference not so much in the choice of material as in the intensity of the passion with which it is seen.

But that magical atmosphere, that glamour (if the word has by now come out of quarantine) which Giorgione gave to all that he expressed, took the world of his day

by storm, and everyone had to try their hands at his alchemy. There is no more curious instance of a sudden wave of romanticism than this that swept over North Italy from 1510 onwards. Even from the works at Burlington House we can see traces of this everywhere, and we can see too, though not perhaps very clearly, how curiously it contrasts with the tendency in Florence and Rome to contract artistic expression to a dry academic perfection.

But all those artists of Venice and the neighbourhood who sought to repeat Giorgione's magic spell lacked the passion which in him transmuted the things of common life. They became Romantics in the bad sense, that is to say, they came to believe in the efficacy of a particular imagery. We can see Cariani (No. 368) making a blowzy, boisterous lady try to look languorous as she leans, in a would-be Giorgionesque pose, against a marble ledge; and, as though to make surer of his effect, he throws in a classical bas-relief. We see Dosso Dossi making his women into sorceresses and crowding his canvases with all kinds of incantatory apparatus. We see some unknown young aspirant in Lord Allendale's "Adoration of the Shepherds" (No. 395) taking every element of his design from Giorgione, copying his trees, his farm-houses, his rocks, his streams with meticulous care. Indeed, he hopes to improve on the original by a more decorative arrangement of his foliage and by tidying up Giorgione's landscape and leaving no space unadorned—I know no clearer instance of the difference of handling which results from the act of creative evocation and of imitative description than the contrast between this work and Giorgione's two landscapes. We can see Romanino, as I believe, trying in his "Adulteress before Christ" (No. 162) to give to his narrative Giorgione's intimacy and mystery.

But the spell refuses obstinately to work. Cariani's blonde lady merely looks ridiculous, Dosso's Sorceresses give us no more thrill than the Castle of Udolpho, the painter of the Adoration remains an industrious decorator, and Romanino's figures seem vulgarly overdressed and exaggerated.

Palma, it is true, in Lord Lansdowne's picture of a man with a lute and two ladies sitting by a river bank, does by his sheer innocence and simplicity of nature get a real but elementary charm into his design. We can see elsewhere how soon this youthful tremor of inspiration left him and how mechanical his allurements became.

Titian, however, alone of Giorgione's contemporaries, came through this romantic crisis. And he comes through in proportion as he abandons the attempt to recapture Giorgione's mood. In temperament he was sharply contrasted to Giorgione. He was far more effective, more technically endowed: he was ambitious and matter-of-fact, and so terrestrial that it was only after many decades of experience that his imagination gained the power fully to control and harmonize his exuberant reactions to life.

As a young man, then, it was vain thus for him to try to be a second Giorgione; but that master's spell was so great that he was bound, none the less, to try. We see him in the "Baptism" using Giorgione's material, taking over his landscape wholesale. But his "Kneeling Donor" is good solid prose, and refuses to be absorbed into the would-be magic world. In his splendid "Portrait of Caterina Cornaro" (No. 385), from the Cook collection—for I am now convinced that it is his—we see him using Giorgione's portrait formula with the marble ledge, but fortunately renouncing any attempt at poetical overtones. And in his own prose style he is already a great master with a great sense of common humanity. In the beautiful but very slight portrait from Copenhagen (No. 166) he tries to be a little more Giorgionesque, and for once comes

nearer to the original, but we see how much surer he is in the later portrait of his physician Parma (No. 164).

Giorgione, it is true, had not, and probably never would have had, anything like Titian's sheer efficiency or his easy mastery of a wide range of expression, and probably the distinguished Royal Academician who is reported to have said of the "Tempest" that it would never pass an R.A. jury was quite right. But he had, more than any other Venetian, that profound feeling for formal relations which enabled him to give to his figures the rhythmical coherence of living beings. It is this that gives to his visions, however dreamlike and strange their atmosphere, more vivid reality than those of his contemporaries. We see it even in the early "Judgment of Moses" (No. 154), and supremely in the incredibly subtle and significant movement of the Budapest portrait (No. 155). But the same broad grasp of formal relations is evident in his landscapes which are much more plastic, less descriptive and decorative than the majority. Indeed, it is curious to what an extent even so great an artist as Titian missed this quality in his early work, and relied far more on silhouette for his design than upon plastic sequences.

ROGER FRY.

PLAYS AND PICTURES

Miss Sybil Thorndike, at the Coliseum.

IT is very good of great actresses to go to the music-halls where those of rather lower brow may see them, but they should really show themselves in a robust framework than this one-act play in which Miss Sybil Thorndike is appearing at the Coliseum. Never was so frail a plant bedded out in an exposed climate! Very briefly, this play, "To Meet the King," tells us how the mother of a famous young airman is visited by her son's spirit at the moment her son is killed. She was already too ill to go and watch the race in which this sad affair occurs, and she dies in our presence as she realizes that the young man who bounced in at the window was not her son but his spirit. This is a very mystical idea, and the writer of the play, Mr. H. C. G. Stevens, and Mr. Lewis Casson, who is presumably the producer, have hardly gone one inch out of their way to elucidate it. One does not suggest that a flash of red fire should have heralded the young airman on to the stage to indicate that he is not of this world. But when he does come in, he is so very solid and substantial, and he has so little to say, being dead, that he might not have said being living, that the stalls are in some danger of missing the point, and we do not know how the people in the distant galleries of the Coliseum can have seen it at all until they turned it over in their minds afterwards. In so far as it enabled us to hear Miss Thorndike's rounded elocution and to see how beautifully she can die and stay dead on the stage, it was well enough; but Mr. Stevens must handle his big ideas rather more bigly, and Mr. Casson must have more pity for music-hall simplicity. Miss Phyllis Dare is also in the programme of the Coliseum. A pianist, the band, and a dancing-partner, all collaborate to bring out her persistent charm.

"A Night Like This," Aldwych Theatre.

After their continuous association in a decade of hilarity, I have come to regard the Aldwych farceurs so much as my personal friends that it goes against the grain to have to decry the new production. Perhaps Mr. Ben Travers, who wrote this and five of the others, has spoilt me in the past. Perhaps if I had not seen "Thark" and "Plunder," I should find it as irresponsible and gloriously foolish as those unforgettable works of art. But the sad truth must be confessed. Although no Aldwych gourmet should miss "A Night Like This," he will be disappointed in 1930 as a vintage year. This may be partly because Mr. Travers has attempted too much elaboration of plot, and too much crookishness. It is certainly very largely

because he has not served some of his most faithful interpreters as well as heretofore. Mr. Walls's talent is thrown away on an Irish policeman who has very little to do or say that is amusing (and an accent that is beyond his compass). Miss Brough merely rushes on and off in her customary state of moral indignation, and Mr. Batty and Miss Coleridge are similarly wasted. Furthermore, Mr. Walls as producer is given too few opportunities for exercising his genius for that ultra-realistic method which was the making of the other plays. The police-court finale, for instance, has none of the verisimilitude that made the Scotland Yard scene in "Plunder" so agonizingly exciting. However, there is always the incomparable Mr. Lynn. Here he is again, saying the first thing that comes into his head—which is nearly always the wrong thing—yet achieving all his heroic aims in the end, by sheer prodigious good luck. Whenever he is on the stage all is well; but hardly anyone else has a look in. The immobile Mr. Kove is still immobile, Miss Shotter is as charmingly helpless as ever, Mr. Hare receives his usual quota of buffeting from everybody; but never was I reduced to that state of helpless and painful laughter which I have learnt eagerly to expect from a visit to the Aldwych.

"Here Comes the Bride," Piccadilly Theatre.

The Piccadilly Theatre is a very comfortable building just behind the Regent's Palace Hotel. I enjoyed my seat very much, and sat in considerable repose during the performance of a new musical comedy "Here Comes the Bride." As musical comedies go, it was rather a good one. That is to say, an attempt had been made to modernize the scenery. The piazza of a Spanish-American hotel in which the first scene was laid was quite pretty, while a variation on "Romeo and Juliet," with the young lover in the steerage, pouring out his soul to his fair one on the higher deck, was worthy of revue. But the back-chat of musical comedy is about the most tiresome invention under heaven. Mr. Edmund Gwenn never once had a good line as an angry father. It was the same with Mr. Clifford Mollison, a really charming actor, who was on the whole very successful at making bricks without straw.

"Lancelot of Denmark," Cambridge Festival Theatre.

It is pleasant to think that the fourteenth century was a time of naïve impulse and untrained literary aspiration. Had not later scholarship revealed pedant cliques and strict traditions of apprenticeship to letters we might reasonably indulge the fancy here. For this play has pathos and a rather blunt satire. But it has, too, some lyrical bursts which betray the careful preening of a hack achieving a purple patch. It fails to-day because locutions which were once severe are now colloquial, and too often the lapse from gravity was imminent through no fault of the players. Mr. Donat, excellent in parts which share a joke with the audience but with nobody on the stage, wickedly induced the wrong sort of humour-bathos with intonations five hundred years too old. And though the formal gestures (which Mr. Evan John rightly imposed on the actors) were tentative where they should have been co-ordinated, there is no doubt that they helped to supply the seriousness which custom has taken from the language. In the Ballets which completed the programme, Miss Ninette de Valois attempted two satirical sketches which were not so happy as the less pretentious Polka, the Tyrolese Dance, and Bach's beautiful Fugue, No. 5, in D major.

British Industries Fair, Olympia.

The British Industries Fair (open from February 17th to 28th) was held this year at Olympia, which proved a more satisfactory site for it than the White City where, with the country in general, it was frostbound last year. Even if there had been general frost again this year, business would not have been seriously hampered, and in any case less walking was necessary on the present site to gain an adequate idea of the nature and scope of Empire products. The Empire Marketing Board exhibits were placed immediately inside the main entrance, and made a good show, displaying in little, as it were, a good many of the best tendencies of the Fair as a whole. This may have

been due to the fact that the majority of the exhibits in this section were foodstuffs, and that the foodstuffs throughout the Fair showed a general average of excellence above that of the other exhibits. There was a tendency noticeable in a good many of the manufactures towards badly conventionalized or unnecessary design which in some cases, beneath a superficial attraction, seemed to betray a lack of good solid craftsmanship. This was naturally more evident where the products were other than directly native and traditional, but in a good many cases it could be remedied by the employment of more virile and constructive designers. This tendency was not strong enough, however, to appear general, and a large proportion of the exhibits would obviously compare very favourably, side by side, with foreign goods. The exhibits covered 420,000 square feet, so that individual mention, even of goods of outstanding merit and interest, is obviously impossible.

Mr. Sickert, A.R.A., the Savile Gallery.

The important exhibition of twenty-nine paintings and thirteen drawings by Mr. Sickert at the Savile Gallery, Bruton Street, consists mainly of recent works, with a few also of earlier date. The imaginativeness and liveliness of Mr. Sickert's brush seem to increase rather than diminish with advancing years, and in this exhibition he is gayer and more witty than ever before. One might even say that his love of the amusing and the allusive has carried him too far in the numerous series of fantastic sketches after various Victorian illustrators such as Weir, John Gilbert, Georgie Bowers, and H. French—too far, because, charming though the painting and lively the calligraphy of these studies are, they seem after a time to wear thin, and the joke to become a little forced. Far better are such things as "The Area Steps" and "The Evening Primrose," two exquisite studies of similar subjects, the two self-portraits entitled "Lazarus breaks his fast" and "The Servant of Abraham," and "That old-fashioned mother of mine," in which his unerring instinct for tone values, the strongest and most fascinating point about his painting, is well shown. There are some of Mr. Sickert's paintings also to be seen in a very interesting exhibition at the Paul Guillaume, Brandon Davis Gallery, in which are also works by Augustus John, Duncan Grant, Matthew Smith, and Paul Nash. The insensitive vulgarity of Mr. John's portrait of the Marchesa Casati spoils the general effect of the room; but there are good examples of the work of the other artists. Mr. Matthew Smith's "Tulips" is as good a flower-picture as he has done, and Mr. Grant shows two extremely fine landscapes.

* * *

Things to see and hear in the coming week:—

Saturday, March 1st.—

London Ballad Concert, Queen's Hall, 2.30.

Adila Fachiri, Violin Recital, Wigmore Hall, 3.

"Healthy, Wealthy, and Wise," by Miss Eleanor Chilton and Mr. Herbert Agar, at the New.

Monday, March 3rd.—

Scottish National Players, at the Festival Theatre, Cambridge.

Tuesday, March 4th.—

Mr. H. W. Nevinson, on "Palestine," Friends House, 1.20.

"The Bacchæ of Euripides," at New Theatre, Cambridge, 2.30 (March 4th-8th).

Lord Olivier, on "Imperialism and Subject Races," Conway Hall, 7.

"The Lion Tamer," by Mr. Alfred Savoir, at the Gate Theatre.

Wednesday, March 5th.—

"The Lady of the Camellias," at the Garrick.

Professor Gilbert Murray, on "Intellectual Co-operation," the Wireless, 7.25.

Friday, March 7th.—

Mr. Walter Layton, on "The Economic Aspect," Morley College, 8.

B.B.C. Symphony Concert, Queen's Hall, 8.

Earl Beauchamp and Robert Lynd, Clarendon Hotel, Oxford, 7.30.

OMICRON.

THE WORLD OF BOOKS

THE BRITISH IN FLANDERS

THE slow streams of Flanders move towards Britain, and as you watch them they become symbolical of that current which has flowed from their history into ours so many years, now bringing the arts of peace and prosperity, now the necessity and ordeal of war. "This country," muttered the lance-corporal outside the "Tir Anglais," "was made for war," and his companion reminded him that it was from Flanders that England received civilized beer. Both men were right, and, had they read Mr. Fleming's notable historical panegyric of the Flemings,* they could have continued their conversation a long time. They were on the way to Poperinghe; Mr. Fleming notes from an Elizabethan State paper of 1561, "The trade of the Flemmynge and his osten at Poppering are a profytable pattern." The lilac at home came from Turkey through Flanders; lace, linen, blankets, mirrors, windows, brickwork, bells, books, horses—these all showed the current of Flemish skill passing into Britain. And, on the other hand, when did England succeed for long in keeping her regiments out of the region where bells and battle-echoes mingled so lately?

The associations which Mr. Fleming incidentally records were felt rather than singled out by the last British army in Flanders, but they haunted the business of life on the Western Front. For one thing, you could see some of them. You were familiar with the Flanders mare, the hop-garden and hop-kiln, the onions strung under the eaves, the pollard willows, the small black cows, the kind of market-place. The Flemish weavers had not colonized Anglia without establishing affinities; nor had the wars of Marlborough and others passed without some perpetuation. La Bassée—here it was, as when its latest news reached the columns of the *TATLER* two hundred years before. Your own regiment had been digging trenches, or stabling horses, where you were. Here was Mons—and you had heard of Mons Meg, that Big Bertha of the past. Was there some harmony, then, which secretly gave the Western Front its lure, its hold over those who served there? At all events, the war in those parts is imperfectly apprehended without some sense of the spirit of the land, and the interfusion of that spirit, sometimes of that blood, with our race. The tribulation at times, particularly towards the end, became so great as to overwhelm even the sense of any place, just as the bombardment at length obliterated miles of village and countryside. But usually Flanders recurred.

It is in that relation, perhaps, that the singular serenity of many men on the Western Front is not surprising. We are told that some French inhabitants feared we should settle in the area for ever! There was much to hold us. In Colonel May's "Memories of the Artists' Rifles"†—once under Lord Leighton's command—are many anecdotes of the sympathy of the parties concerned. He even records how one sunburnt peasant woman gave free cognac to eighty men in her barn! That was, perhaps, exceptional. We missed that good woman. But, granted that there was a pleasure in being in Flanders in spite of all troubles, the troops themselves brought a gaiety with them. What they were like is brilliantly recollected by the anonymous author of "War is War,"‡ a book which is rather talked than written, and preserves in an uncommon degree the manner of those years. It starts in the right way. Crossing the Channel a young private (of education) remarks: "Well, there goes England; I wonder if we shall see her again." And a gunner, plunging his jack-knife into a tin of bully beef, rejoins, "Well, I'm havin' my tea." Another gunner is having a horrible crossing. His friend, at the end of one of his struggles, calls out, "Still got your teeth, Jack?" Even at the worst moments, there was a humour of the terrible. An officer holds up some men in retreat in March,

1918: "Now, you —, I'm not going back to Boulogne for you!"

Not dissimilar is the effect of the British infantryman who emerges from the war passages in Mr. Ashley Gibson's "Postscript to Adventure."§ He, too, is conversing with a pen, rather than creating a work of art. Any recent impression that our experiences in the War were all of a drab and dispirited kind will vanish under his lively gleams of the wit and strength that had gone to Flanders. Any illusion that the wit was cheap will go too, for his stories of accurately inflicted agony show what it cost. Noble is the idealist who would save the race from these extremities, but not less so the undistinguished crowd who, obeying orders, would have "one word more." Tragic situation made that word marvellous, like the singing of the child with his throat cut in Chaucer.

"In 1573 the ravages of wolves round Ypres was so excessive that a price was placed upon their heads." One saw a few animals there in 1917 which might have been wolves, but were usually classified as rats. But not even these aroused quite that passion for Ypres as a city which Mr. Ronald Gurner ascribes to his warriors in "Pass Guard at Ypres."|| The constancy with which the Second Army defended the key to Calais had not his explicit utterance then. One of his characters quarrels with a big-mouthed sergeant-major for false statements about Ypres, as though his sweetheart had been slandered. That is too literal a way of being figurative. But Mr. Gurner takes us out for a rest into the Flanders of our real regard.

A collection of short studies of "The Men in the Line,"¶ by Mr. V. Walpole, a South African, naturally reflects rather the characteristics of the British soldier at his periscope or humping his machine-gun ahead than the background of Flanders and history. Mr. Walpole strikes no attitudes for himself or others. He reviews, with a convincing quietness, the main aspects of normal trench life, interspersed with the curiosities which come up when a great army is created. There is the touch of genius in many men, who care nothing about it either way, and these were found in Flanders. One day there comes to his billet a Lewis gunner, about to clean his gun with petrol. He sees the brazier, stands chatting, drops a little petrol on. Curses on all sides only encourage him: "He is a genial, good-looking, dare-devil of a fellow of over thirty, with fine swashbuckler moustaches. He would make a perfect melodrama Mephistopheles. Again he allows a little of the innocuous-looking liquid to drip over the edge of the tin, and as another white jet of flame springs up, he leans back in a theatrical pose, the officiating priest adoring the fire-god. He does it yet again"; but is obliged to stop, and sits down cheerfully to clean his gun.

Such were the men one might meet in Flanders, and what impression have they left on the place? Apart from the cemeteries, "adopted villages," and schools, one is inclined to say that nowadays the active contact between Flanders and Britain is weaker than it has ever been. The peasant was weary of allies and enemies equally, and has regained his property. The Flemings are not coming to England again; and is the British soldier ever to go again to Flanders? One would like the assurance that the history of his tragic wit in that region is closed, but it has been long and iterative, and those who stare into the Lys or Yser may be pardoned for a sense of undercurrents.

EDMUND BLUNDEN.

* Flemish Influence in Britain. Two vols. (Glasgow: Jackson, Wylie. 30s.)

† (Howlett, 66, Offley Road, S.W.9. 10s.)

‡ (Gollancz. 7s. 6d.)

§ (Dent. 10s. 6d.)

|| (Dent. 7s. 6d.)

¶ (Messrs. Walker Bros., 3, London Wall Buildings, E.C.2.)

REVIEWS

C. E. MONTAGUE

A Writer's Notes on his Trade. By C. E. MONTAGUE. Introduction by H. M. TOMLINSON. (Chatto & Windus. £3 3s.)

ANYONE who is in the habit of looking with suspicion upon a book published after an author's death—thinking it to be as often as not the scourgings of his desk—will find on taking up "A Writer's Notes on his Trade" that he need have no such misgivings. This book contains a number of essays written for the purpose of this collection, and they are published under Montague's own title. The work of editing only was left to other hands. If he had lived, Montague would have given them a final revision, but, as they stand, these essays are in every way worthy of their memorial production.

Moreover, in its subject-matter this book is a fitting last book of a writer who recognized the seriousness of his trade. Good writing contains a secret which Montague was always anxious to probe. He said once in a letter to Professor Alexander, speaking of Hegel and his followers, "They seem to know everything except the extraordinary thing that befalls a first-rate artist when he is functioning well." This "extraordinary thing" is what in these essays he has set himself to explain. He had known it within his own experience, and he had also had the opportunity of watching it happen in two artists while they were at work—Muirhead Bone and Francis Dodd, with whom he was thrown in contact during the war. He saw how they became more and more stimulated as they went on working, and in one of the essays in this book, "The Blessing of Adam," he imagines Raphael similarly stimulated while painting the Sistine Madonna. Inspiration was not in the model, nor only in what the artist may have had it in his soul to say; inspiration was in the art itself. This is Montague's most original contribution to the theory of art.

Any idea of a haphazard inspiration, which bloweth where it listeth, may be all very well for some contented mediocrity, but it did not satisfy Montague. Montague never lost sight of himself in relation to his medium. In the best sense of the term, he was a self-conscious writer. In one essay he shows the futility of doing without workmanship. Workmanship is inspiration, and he realized that the artist can only function well through the joy he has in his medium, "the stimulus of physical contact with his paints or clay."

This book of Montague's on the why and wherefore of literature is never dull, because he understood that technique is no arid grammar of aesthetics. Technique and good literature are one and the same thing. "A Writer's Notes on his Trade," besides telling us some very good things about writing, is also the best of accessories to one's reading. Outside his actual experience of writing, Montague was a serious student of the drama, as a critic pure and simple; and in "The Delights of Literature" and "The Literary Play," which is one of the only two reprints in the book, we have the ripening of the wisdom which gave us "Dramatic Values." One of the most notable and delightful features of Montague's work is his abundance of illustration, both from his experience and his reading—the "intensive" reading which he recommends in "Quotation." In these essays we continually come upon illuminating inspirations of criticism. This on Morris is worth many pages that could be written: "He who, like William Morris, attempts to live in the childhood of the world, always carries about him something of its dead coldness." Or this on Shaw: "By bringing in the Beelzebub of enormous thousandfold exaggeration he has routed out some quite sizeable devils." His essay on Matthew Arnold also is one of the few good things written about him, and it is an expansion of that brief dictum on Arnold in the first page of "Disenchantment." Throughout Montague's work we find similar hints and later amplifications, cross-lights and references, which endear him to his readers. It is possible thus to know Montague's character in the round, and not as a series of detached likes and dislikes. His opinions have become part of him. They have stood the test again and again as he has met each new experience in life and in literature. By the end of "A Writer's Notes on his Trade" we begin to realize the appo-

siteness of Mr. Tomlinson's introduction, which is so much more an introduction to the man himself than to this book in particular. It is a tribute from the author of one of the latest of war books to the author of one of the first and the best of them. Perhaps everyone will not agree with Mr. Tomlinson's theory of the hair-shirt, but his insistence upon Montague as an Elizabethan is interesting. He gives us an idea of the man, which we can unite with the personality, so evident in every page of this book. It was Elizabethan that Montague, on returning from the wars, should have sat down to write an "apologie" for the art of writing.

JAMES THORNTON.

CLEMENCEAU

The Tiger, Georges Clemenceau. By GEORGE ADAM. (Cape. 10s. 6d.)

Clemenceau, the Events of his life as told by himself to his former Secretary, Jean Martet. Translated by MILTON WALDMAN. (Longmans. 25s.)

MR. ADAM's book is a study of the influence which Clemenceau exercised over the parliamentary history of his times, and consists largely of a narrative of the controversies which lacerated the Third Republic. Monsieur Martet's book is written in an entirely different form. The author was Clemenceau's secretary throughout the war; after the French Premier's retirement he visited him frequently and listened to the old man's talk upon classical history, painting, and the great events in which he had assisted. Monsieur Martet took notes of these conversations and has reproduced them as accurately as he can. His book is therefore not a narrative but a succession of dialogues.

The society to which Mr. Adam introduces us is blackguardly and squalid. During the last days of the Second Empire, a number of French students spend all their spare time abusing their betters and calling their abuse the denunciation of tyranny. They do a certain amount of regular work, for, in course of time they take degrees in law and medicine. But having done so, they discover that a man who has made vituperation his special study will earn a better livelihood than a doctor or a lawyer. Clemenceau was the most talented of the group. None had a viler tongue than he, and being a skilful fencer and a dead shot, he was particularly formidable; Monsieur Deroulède was not far wrong when he said that Clemenceau's success in life was due to his sword, his duelling pistols, and his tongue.

It seems extraordinary that anybody should have been so successful by such methods, even in France; and Mr. Adam's book is valuable in that it explains the contributory reasons.

With the exception of Thiers, Clemenceau's principal opponents were men of poor abilities. Boulanger was simply a well-tailored and theatrical general; the army leaders during the Dreyfus affair were powerful, but intensely obstinate and stupid; and no outstanding character was ever found amongst the clerics and gentry against whom Clemenceau and his gang had sworn eternal hatred. Nor must it be forgotten that although French parliamentary controversies and the method of conducting them were base and ignoble, they were incidents in political and social changes which affected all Europe. Clemenceau and his friends were throughout on the winning side. And it must, in fairness, be added that Clemenceau had higher gifts than those upon which he depended for earning a livelihood. He used abuse and insult for purposes which ordinary persons strive to achieve by work and knowledge, yet Mr. Adam's book leaves little doubt that he was a man of more than ordinary intelligence. As a mayor he was a good administrator; when many years later he became Premier and War Minister, he could always distinguish those parts of a military project which civilian ministers can examine and criticize from those parts upon which professional soldiers must be the final authority. This is not an exceptional talent or a gift in itself, but it is proof of uncommon ability. How many civilian ministers of quite high intelligence have been unable to discover that the technical jargon of their expert advisers is, at bottom, no more than a statement of facts

which can be critically examined by ordinary persons? Finally, it must be said in Clemenceau's honour that he was scrupulously honest. Investigations into the Panama business showed that the French champions of liberal principles had inherited the worst vices of those Revolutionary leaders in whose footsteps they professed to follow. When money was offered them they took it. It cannot be proved outright that Clemenceau never received a penny from the moneyed interests which bought the votes of the French parliamentarians; but Mr. Adam shows that he met the charges brought against him in a singularly straightforward manner. If there had been any evidence against him his enemies would almost certainly have discovered it.

Mr. Adam has an admirable narrative style; his words are well chosen, his phrases are always carefully and accurately constructed. He is, in fact, one of the few modern publicists who have no liking for those explosive sentences which are hurled on to a page as bullets are shot on to a target. A writer whose standard of taste is so much above the ordinary ought certainly to be commended for it.

Monsieur Martet's book is possibly more entertaining in the French than the English, for Clemenceau had a very peculiar conversational style which could not be reproduced in English. Also, Monsieur Martet must have imposed a severe self-denying ordinance upon himself. Clemenceau was wittiest when he was most obscene; his best sayings are simply unrepeatable.

The dialogues between Monsieur Martet and his old chief are, however, interesting for a reason of which the author himself may be unconscious. Clemenceau's opinions upon Greek art and history are not very original; but it will be a revelation to many that he thought about such things at all. Also, those who observed Clemenceau at close quarters, who saw him burst into ungovernable fury at the slightest opposition, who watched him cursing, browbeating, and terrorizing helpless persons, like a carter who kicks his horses in the belly for fun, will be astounded that he ever secured anybody's affections. Monsieur Martet was, undoubtedly, very fond of Clemenceau, and he is not the type of man who licks the hand that struck him. This book of dialogues is valuable for these reasons only. With regard to such questions as the controversy with Foch, the appointment of a commander-in-chief to the Allied armies, the annexation of the Rhineland, Monsieur Martet does not add to our knowledge, but he shows that there was a magnanimity and simplicity about Clemenceau which an ordinary observer of the man would never have suspected.

A. C. BELL.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

Our New Religion. By H. A. L. FISHER. (Benn. 6s.)

A GREAT public congress, so the story goes, was being held one day in the United States. Thousands of people were present, all in their places. They had sung and cheered and stamped themselves to the highest state of expectancy. The great orator was now due to appear, and the crowd, as crowds often do at such moments, suddenly became still. It was just at this second of time that a man on the platform, but at a great height on the platform—near the organ pipes—rose in his place and, in a voice which was heard all over the building, said, "Are there any Christian Scientists here?" Answers came from all parts of the building; amid the dim multitudes in far galleries many hands were held up and many voices cried "Here." "Well," said the man on the platform, again making his voice carry to the furthest corner of the hall, "will one of you come and change places with me? I'm sitting in a fearful draught." The story does not say what offers were forthcoming to this unexpected request. But there was a whole volume of criticism in the question. This volume has now been written by Mr. Fisher, who puts the teachings of Christian Science through a polite but very searching scrutiny.

In plain Christianity a stiff neck, such as the man on the platform feared he might have, is a hard fact of human experience. A good Christian would pay full respect to its undoubted inconvenience; he would seek for himself and

recommend for another such cure or alleviation as may be had from flannel or embrocation or a hot flat-iron. Meanwhile, he would know that some profit may be got, even from a stiff neck, by saying as little as possible about it, and by not allowing it to interfere, more than need be, with the charm and usefulness of his life. Thus it was said of a modern Saint of the Church (the unscientific one) that his last illness, which was long and painful, became, in his hands, the occasion of showing further and further thought for everyone in the house. Now this is all very well as far as it goes, but the keen business mind will not think it goes very far, and a religion which can only tell a man to bear a stiff neck patiently will have a strong rival in the religion which seems to promise him that he won't ever have one. Christianity faces the Cross. Christian Science gets round it—and then it meets the formidable mind of Mr. Fisher!

In his chapter on the origins of Christian Science Mr. Fisher borrows some of the polite irony of Gibbon, and he has indeed every right to reprimand Mrs. Eddy on her style, which was not a good style at all. She affords, indeed, the most conspicuous exception there is to the general rule that those who, like St. Mark, have greatly influenced mankind by their writing, have written well. It is a good thing that Mr. Fisher does full justice to the seed of truth which lies at the centre of Christian Science, and that he does not fail of a proper tribute to the high moral worth of many of those who profess it. It was a remark of Emerson that every Stoic was a Stoic, but where, he asked, in all Christendom will you find the Christian? Christian Scientists are like the Stoics. You can nearly always tell them when you see them. It is, on the other hand, possible to detect under the composure of the Christian Science face a touch of what Mr. Fisher calls "valetudinarian anxiety," and the fixed, determined smile may sometimes become a rather trying affectation. To those who are not initiated there is so very much in the world which is no laughing matter, and not even a smiling one!

HASLAM MILLS.



To men in the fifties and sixties

It is not generally realized that for an annual premium of

£58 9s. 2d.

a man of 60 next birthday can effect a Whole Life Assurance of

£1000

with right to participate in the Surplus under the Distinctive System of

The Scottish Provident Institution

There is no risk of capital depreciation in a Life Policy

A prospectus giving full particulars and tables of rates will be sent on application.

Head Office: 6 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh
London (City Office): 3 Lombard Street, E.C.3

Funds - £21,500,000

LETTERS OF GEORGE SAND

Letters of George Sand. Selected and translated by VERONICA LUCAS. With an Introduction by ELIZABETH DREW. (Routledge. 15s.)

THIS is not a book to read through for pleasure, although there are delightful patches of humorous description and occasionally a letter to which anger has given force. George Sand wrote her letters in haste, and usually with an immediate purpose; she wrote about ideas and expressed them none too clearly, and, inevitably with so many correspondents, she repeated herself. Praise of her son, of his wife and children, of life at Nohant, and invitations to stay there become wearisome. On the other hand, the editors do not give enough information to cement the letters into a coherent account of George Sand's life. Certainly it is not their purpose; but a more detailed introduction, fuller notes on the recipients of the letters or even a chronological list of events would have made the book more interesting to the ordinary reader.

As it is, the selection is representative enough to show that George Sand was much more than the mistress of many lovers, and it will be valuable as a commentary on her character, her literary judgments and her methods of work, and on the history of the nineteenth century. It saves readers the trouble of searching through the collected Correspondence for illustrative letters; it contains a few letters not included in that edition, and it has the less certain advantage of being in English. The style of the letters, a mixture of the commonplace and the rhetorical, makes translation difficult. Miss Lucas's rendering is straightforward, but rather stiff. She does not misrepresent by addition of expansion; but sometimes a point is lost, or a phrase follows the French too closely. More serious is a number of definite errors, slight enough but misleading. George Sand's criticism of Eliza Ashurst is badly obscured (page 167): "The question of *man* and *woman* occupies her thoughts exclusively, and this sex-business viewed as an acceptance of it in which the thought of sex-differences ought not to be dominating, effaces her notion of the *human being*." It is bad enough in the original, but not meaningless, if one reads, "*dans une acceptation où la pensée de l'homme ni de la femme ne devrait s'arrêter exclusivement.*" To Viardot George Sand wrote that the decision of the conflict between religion and science did not seem to her "*le fait d'une bataille, ni l'œuvre d'une génération.*" This is translated by "either a war-like deed or the fitting task of a generation." "Votre sujet actuel" (page 293) appears as "your type of subject," and "avec des enfants que j'aime trop pour pouvoir m'appartenir" (page 295), as "with the children whom I love too much to cling to them." The feeling of insecurity caused by such slips is aggravated by a large number of printer's errors, some quite astonishing. After an attack of indigestion George Sand is represented as writing: "All told it was nothing but sheer impossibility of directing anything whatever for the time being."

Unfailing vitality must have been George Sand's charm; every letter shows her absorbed in the interest of the moment, generally a new one, full of hope or despair. One of the sources of her vitality was perhaps her confidence in her own motives. Although it is true that her moral standards were high, only a woman unable to stand outside herself could have adopted the lofty tone of her letters to Solange. Yet, although she worked through every night, visited different parts of the country to look for local colour (which she added in revision), and repeatedly suggested to Flaubert that he should follow her freer methods of composition, she could write with sincerity: "In fifty years' time I shall be absolutely forgotten and perhaps cruelly misunderstood. That is the law of things which do not belong to the first order." Her practical capacity and the value she set on ordinary things gave her a shrewd judgment. Although her socialism seems to have been superficial, to judge from the easy discouragement of her letters after 1848, she was able to realize that the obstacle to socialistic reform was no particular form of government but the strength of the bourgeoisie. Where she had her own experience as a basis, when she wrote of the position of women or of education, her views, whether right or wrong, were sound. She

was as generous with ideas as with money, and there is much in the letters that is trite; but now and again an original judgment emerges that time has already justified. Not many of the contemporaries who shared her confidence in science could have written in 1868: "It seems to me that at the present day we are going too far in the affirmation of a narrow and rather coarse realism in science, as well as art."

"A HARMLESS PARANOIAC"

Carry Nation. By HERBERT ASBURY. (Knopf. 10s. 6d.)

THE American religious fanaticisms of the mid-nineteenth century produced many strange figures, but probably none at once more extraordinary and more commonplace than Carry Nation. She is interesting only for the degree to which her inherited abnormality permitted her to be the mouthpiece, and the expression in action, of conceptions and desires which in her place and time, and even to-day, were relatively normal. No unusual ability, nothing indeed but lack of restraint and sense of proportion, made her during ten significant years the prophet—or it might be more exact to say simply the publicity agent—of Prohibition. Certainly she was not sane—madness was in her family. Her own daughter was more than once sent to asylums; her mother continuously over a number of years believed herself to be Queen Victoria, and not only held daily court, but in one period of temporary affluence rode about the streets in a splendid carriage, preceded by a scarlet-clad negro on horseback blowing mighty blasts on a trumpet to herald her coming. Carry herself, with the exception of one occasion when she agitatedly roused her jailer in the middle of the night to say that she had been elected President of the United States by the Smashers' League and must be off at once to Washington, suffered no delusions of this nature; she was "queer," but she was not, except in the degree of her queerness, eccentric. Her story, up to a point, was that of many women whose biographies no one would ever dream of writing. Practically an invalid as a girl, she had sought in religion relief from her pains and unhappiness; she hysterically convicted herself of sin, repented, prayed, and experienced conversion—more than once. Marriage brought greater, not less, need of such consolations. Her first husband very quickly drank himself to death; in her relations with her second, who seems to have been an extraordinarily dull personality, no element of love or even liking is apparent. By gradual and wholly familiar steps she had long since reached the stage of angelic visions and the special confidences of Jesus when in 1899, at the age of fifty-three, the word of the Lord came to her to do battle against the twin evils of drinking and smoking.

It must be made clear that the former of these two was at the time a burning question of the utmost public interest. Kansas was even so early a Prohibition State, and religious bodies in particular were especially wrathful against the illegal saloons which flourished openly and prosperously. So that when Carry Nation, weary of the futile protests of temperance unions to police and politicians who shrugged their shoulders and took their bribes, took up what Jesus himself told her was righteous work and began to lay waste one drink shop after another with a chopper the fame of which was to exceed that even of George Washington's, there went with her a considerable backing of respectable opinion. She was invited east and west to lecture and assault, and even had many imitators. It was this evident support, combined with the fact that she had the good sense to confine her activities principally to saloons outside the law's protection, that accounts for what seems at first sight an extraordinary immunity from private assault or legal penalty. Yet her reputation, Mr. Asbury shows, outran her performance; her triumph lay not really in her actual deeds, but in the publicity the spotlight of interest following her inevitably threw upon the worst features of the American saloon. For the rest, she was evidently an interfering old busybody, alarming to encounter but amusing to read about. Mr. Asbury tells her story well and entertainingly, with a sense of the atmosphere of his background

and period. Only the more sensitive reader may perhaps wish at times that his laughter was being directed rather at those who took her seriously and gave her power than at "a harmless paranoiac."

A CHAMPION OF THE NEGRO

Travels in the Congo. By ANDRÉ GIDE. Translated by DOROTHY BUSSY. (Knopf. 15s.)

THIS book by a celebrated French novelist is no conventional work of travel. It is a diary written from day to day during the actual course of the writer's recent wanderings by boat, foot, and motor-car in the Congo. Its descriptions of scenery and of native life and customs are admirably simple and direct. M. André Gide has eschewed any pretensions to omniscience and any attempt to generalize. He has recorded only what he actually saw, and stated his own individual impression. Not only do we feel ourselves to be in contact with a singularly honest mind, but the general absence of "gush" gives emphasis to the occasionally eloquent passages which depict scenes that really moved the author by their strangeness, beauty, or horror.

M. Gide's restraint and obvious sincerity lend added weight to his championship of the negro. He went to the Congo with no preconceived sympathy for the natives. But his observations on the spot filled him with a deep respect for them, and with a bitter indignation against the treatment to which they are still subjected. He does not accuse the Belgian and French administrations of being actually corrupt, but says that they are so inadequately staffed that it is impossible for them to maintain a proper supervision over the big trading companies, whose agents he found, almost without exception, to be grasping, callous, and cynically contemptuous, both in theory and practice, of the regulations designed for native protection. Of the blacks themselves he writes with positive affection, echoing the marvel expressed by Joseph Conrad at "the extraordinary effort of

imagination that was necessary to make us take these people for enemies." For the most part he found the natives "childlike, noble, pure, and honest." He denies that they are naturally indolent, and attributes their supposed laziness merely to their state of slavery and wretched poverty. He maintains, moreover, that their lasciviousness is greatly over-estimated, and that their dances seldom have the obscene significance attributed to them.

Summing up his impressions of the negro, M. Gide says: "The whites who manage to turn creatures like him into rogues are worse rogues themselves, or else miserable blunders. . . . I do not want to make the black out more intelligent than he is; but his stupidity, if it exists, is only natural—like an animal's. Whereas the white man's as regards the black has something monstrous about it, by very reason of his superiority." The less intelligent the white man is, M. Gide remarks elsewhere, the more stupid he thinks the black. M. Gide himself is very intelligent indeed, and he has given us a diary that is not only full of objective interest, but is delightful as an intimate revelation of his own temperament.

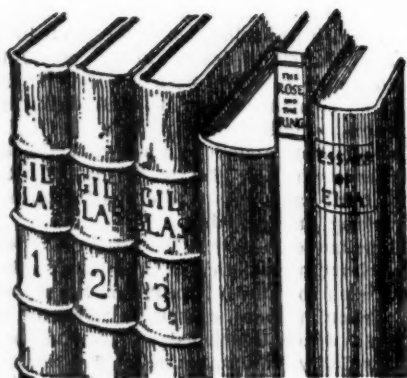
ADAM AND THE TALKIES

Adam and Evelyn at Kew, or, Revolt in the Gardens. By ROBERT HERRING. Illustrated by EDWARD BAWDEN. (Limited Edition. Mathews & Marrot. 21s.)

KENSINGTON GARDENS had the glamour once. But Barrie peopled every walk and tree-trunk so exhaustively that later writers found a "full-up" notice and went out to Kew. They were at first more delicate and reticent; they left room for successors. Mrs. Woolf omitted to stress the gardener's halo, and Mr. Ronald Fraser never thought of films. Mr. Herring, who writes about films for nearly half a dozen papers, and so cannot avoid the thought of them, arrives at Kew with a halo in one pocket and the British talkies in the other, relying on his sleight-of-hand to make them fit. The halo belongs to Adam, because Adam is a gardener. Now a gardener at Kew is an ideal subject for philosophy, symbolism, romance or what you will. This one inhabits Eden or Arden, is, according to his author's wish, a naturalist, a nincompoop, a mouthpiece, a reluctant lover, abstract Man—but concrete nothingness. One should say really that he is a series of arabesques and posturings hooked into the elaborate entanglements of Mr. Herring's prose. Here, for example, is Adam gazing at the rhododendrons: "They were negligent, wasteful, serene—all that, because he might not be (the Curator made that his business), he was in danger thereby of thinking impossible, and certainly not admirable."

But there is Mr. Herring's other pocket to be considered. However exquisite and non-commercial Adam may be, the talking films have got to supply Eve. So Adam dreams in verse a mixed pot-pourri of the history of the Gardens, which turns out to be a talking-film scenario, with the heroine stranded in the water as he wakes. Like Adam, Evelyn is everyone and no one. She is Fanny Burney, Eve, a telephone girl made film star, a mouthpiece for acute sophistication, a spouter of studio jargon, and a painted cipher. It is all extremely disappointing. There is so much ostentatious dressing—in the pictures of old ladies seen as flower-beds, in the scraps of drifting talk from passers by. There is so obstinate an attempt at symbolism—with film director and curator to play God, and microphones cast hopefully for devils. Mechanism upon mechanism, labour upon labour; and the result is neither Kew nor Eden, but an echo of the Wembley Exhibition, in which a dozen carefully imitated atmospheres cut into and destroyed each other in a minimum of space.

It might be argued that the book is fantasy, and in fantasy a medley is permissible. This, in a sense, is true, but it requires qualification. For fantasy must satisfy some part of the mind. It is privileged to defy all rational facts and probabilities, leaping illogically across chasms that science, argument, and reason cannot bridge. It may reach far airier pikes and magic superstructures than any Mr. Herring touches. But if rational unity is to be discarded, then artistic unity must take its place. There can be no



The fourth book is not a book; it is a sham. But it is not a mere sham. It is bound like a book because, although folks are not ashamed to put by a few coins now and then for their children, or themselves, they don't care to let a tin money-box be seen lying about. So this box can go comfortably amongst other books on the shelf; and it will easily slip into a pocket whenever you want it emptied at the Bank. The Westminster Bank does not reserve these as a privilege for its regular customers only; it issues them without formalities at any of its branch counters

WESTMINSTER BANK LIMITED

An Anthology of Bad Verse

The Stuffed Owl

Selected & Arranged by
D. B. WYNDHAM LEWIS
& CHARLES LEE

"The largest body of bad verse ever brought together . . . arranged with malicious intelligence."—STET (*Saturday Review*).

"There is a high-spirited Introduction by Mr. Lewis, and a long mock-heroic prefatory poem by Mr. Lee, which is as good a thing of the kind as has ever been done. The book as a whole can be recommended as very entertaining."—J. C. SQUIRE (*Observer*).

With 8 Cartoons from the works of
MAX BEERBOHM. 6s. net

□ Prospectus post free

★

"The real War has been re-created at last."—DAILY EXPRESS.

Everyman at War

SIXTY PERSONAL NARRATIVES

This book is the most varied record of the War that has ever been published. Most of the narratives are by men who have never written anything for publication in their lives, and all consist of authentic experiences. The sixty contributors include all ranks, from Lieutenant-Colonel, Chaplain, etc. to Private and Able Seaman. It is an astonishing book, that answers the question "What was the War really like?" as it has never been answered before.

Edited by C. B. PURDOM. 425 pp.
Just ready. 6s. net

★

BEDFORD STREET
J. M. DENT & SONS LTD.
LONDON W.C.2.

WAR FACT

*New Editions of
two Cambridge Books*

AN OUTLINE HISTORY OF THE GREAT WAR

By G. V. CAREY and H. S. SCOTT

The publishers are now able to disclose that the anonymous collaborator referred to in the first edition was

LT COL. N. C. RUTHERFORD, D.S.O.

"The best book of the kind that has appeared."
The Morning Post.

THE TUNNELLERS OF HOLZMINDEN

By H. G. DURNFORD

The author has amplified his account of the historical escape from the German prison-camp at Holzminden and of his own escape from Stralsund.

"The Holzminden escape is one of the best tales of the war."—*The Manchester Guardian.*

Illustrated

6s. NET EACH

THE PEACE TACTICS OF NAPOLEON, 1806-8

By H. BUTTERFIELD

Demy 8vo. 16s. net

"In Mr Butterfield's hands monarchs and diplomatists cease to be mere names; they become living people. The picture of Napoleon himself is admirably drawn. . . . Mr Butterfield is to be congratulated on the quality of his work, which should give him a high place among the younger school of historians."—*The Times*

THE BINDING FORCE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

By A. PEARCE HIGGINS, C.B.E.

Second Impression

Crown 8vo. 2s. net

Cambridge
University Press

breaking down without a compensatory building up. The mind is willing to forgo its usual function of appraising literally according to the tenets of common sense, only on condition it is swept into poetic acceptance of a unified artistic structure. Now Mr. Herring has evidently set out to write a fantasy; but the contents of that second pocket, not being such stuff as dreams are made on, have defeated him. The desire to poke fun at films proves stronger than the clouds of ideality, and Adam's philosophic smoke is jostled by such mundane easy gibes as: "It was possible that he was off his head. What he did not know, which would have consoled him, was that he lacked the final symptom—he did not write about the talking films."

The historical muddle in the film director's mind is as nothing compared with the artistic muddle in the author's. His sleight-of-hand has failed. Rationally the halo and the talkies have been made to fit—which was unnecessary. Artistically they are unacceptable, not only for their clashing, but because the second was not worth enshrining in a limited edition, and the first is affected rather than sincere. Mr. Bawden's illustrations are amusing, and display more unity of purpose than the text.

SYLVA NORMAN.

EYES ON THE CONFERENCE

The Background of the London Naval Conference. By LAURA PUFFER MORGAN. (National Council for the Prevention of War, Washington.)

The Naval Conference and After. By CARLYON BELLAIRS. (Faber & Faber. 1s.)

Of these two aids to understanding of the Conference, the second is the racier reading and the first the more helpful. Commander Bellairs holds that our fleet is now incapable of defending our trade; therefore we *must* have peace; which should be employed to fulfil Lord Beaverbrook's dream of Empire economic unity. Peace can be secured if we will only turn away from Europe and look towards America, as all other Powers will know that the United States is bound in honour to come to our aid, after we have largely disarmed ourselves in the name of parity. "The Background of the Conference" gives a good short résumé of previous discussions and a very close analysis of the existing British and American fleets. It is written largely for the purpose of showing that the British did not snatch an unfair advantage at Washington, and that both sides have been to blame for subsequent misunderstandings. The criticism of "Big Navy" propaganda is incisive, and while not hesitating to point out British mistakes, the author shows an unusual understanding of British naval needs and arguments. In discussing the prospects of the Conference the pamphlet has one weakness. It assumes that if all existing battleships were scrapped, nothing would be built or allocated to perform their functions, and that the whole tonnage scrapped would be pure gain. To stake the whole chances of limitation on the elimination of the battleship (not reduction or postponement of replacements) is not the path of wisdom. Nevertheless, this is a really useful and valuable addition to Conference literature, for it gives a mass of facts and figures not elsewhere readily accessible.

A LITERARY POCKET-BOOK

Sterne, like Wordsworth, found his authoritative biographer in America. The third edition of Professor Cross's massive book has been brought within the limits of one volume (Milford, 23s.), and represents sufficient revision in other ways to deserve a passing tribute. For example, the other day Mr. L. P. Curtis wrote a book on the otherwise mysterious political pamphleteering of Sterne's pre-sentimental period, and what he established has been incorporated. The Pierpont Morgan library, too, has received within its ponderous and amiable jaws a manuscript of the "Sentimental Journey." Professor Cross has not overlooked it; indeed, it is only a Sterne collector of the most vigilant type who could say whether any document had escaped his monumental work.

Say it with photographs. There is nothing revolutionary in that idea, which is employed in a new journal called "The U.S.S.R. in Construction," a collection of pictures of

industrial enterprise. Agriculture also obtains some advertisement, where the Petrol Age has made a contact with it. The titles are characteristic. A farm is named "Giant," a machine tool factory "Red Proletarian," an oil-refining plant "The 28th of April." The sense of multiplicity in action is expressed in photographs which might have been taken in Newcastle or Sheffield—by a Russian.

The tradition of publishing books in provincial towns is not dead, though considerably battered by the metropolitan tendency. Antiquaries especially keep it alive. We have before us "A History of Tollerton, Nottinghamshire," by the Rev. S. P. Potter (issued by Mr. Saxton the bookseller, at 6s. 6d.)—an unlaboured miscellany of the life of a village. In it is a collection of the field, road, hill, and house names there—one of the minor pleasures of our countryside. The County Press, Newport, have published Sir Frederick Black's "Parliamentary History of the Isle of Wight" (5s.), a pamphlet with numerous portraits of the worthies whom it assembles. It is Sir Frederick's contribution to the subject which the Parliamentary Committee on House of Commons Records will survey entire. The Rev. the Hon. A. F. Northcote's "History of Monk's Eleigh" (Ipswich, W. E. Harrison, 5s.) is a pretty window opening on antiquity. Mr. Coles Finch has produced another local book of a charming character in "The Medway"—printed at Rochester, but published in London by Messrs. Daniel (10s. 6d.). Fifty years of association and curiosity have gone to its making; the author has enriched all who visit his river after reading him, or lingering over his old prints and paintings in reproduction.

We return to Ebury Street in a new edition of Mr. George Moore's "Conversations" (Heinemann, 10s. 6d.). It is a pity that John Freeman has departed, too early to see this revised version. Sir Edmund Gosse, too, will not cut the pages this time. . . . "The lake darkens and the loiterers along the waterside have disappeared; probably gone home to supper, every one. I'll let you out at the farther gate."

A preliminary uneasiness vanished while we were reviewing the first volume of "Retrospections of Dorothea Herbert," and the second (Howe, 7s. 6d.) is like the first. It is the same engaging romp among the fops and fools and flirts of Irish society, in the age of Maria Edgeworth; kissing, without cutting of throats—though Chapter 127 is news of a murder. We were particularly pleased to see Dorothea, for we had just been taking our pleasures seriously in a monograph by Mme. Edith Duméril on Felicia Hemans (Paris, Henri Didier, 20 fr.). This is one of the books that even a tolerable acquaintance with the singular productivity of the printing-press hardly prophesied. Here is a French lady, in 1930, elaborately expounding Mrs. Hemans! The Martin Tupper Society is on the tiptoe of expectation.

Whitman died in 1892, yet one hardly anticipated a new biography by one who knew him: Mr. Harrison S. Morris achieves it (Milford, 7s.). He made notes of several meetings and conversations, and speaks principally of the man; but his account of Whitman's work and the immediate troubling of the waters is plain and serviceable. At the same moment arrives "La Vie Inspirée d'Emerson" (Paris, Plon), by Régis Michaud: "Ce sont les aventures spirituelles d'Emerson que je raconte."

Those who have watched the literature of the war are well aware that the best books did not all come up under the auspices of Herr Remarque and his rivals. Ten years ago Mr. H. G. Durnford's "Tunnellers of Holzminden" delighted a limited audience. This masterpiece of "escape," graphic and instantaneous, deserves more than that; and the new edition (Cambridge University Press, 6s.) adds new details to a narrative of which the details were, and are, the important secret.

The late Walter Jerrold had a capital idea in editing Thomas Hood's "Literary Reminiscences," hitherto half-buried in "Hood's Own." The result appears as "Thomas Hood and Charles Lamb" (Benn, 10s. 6d.), which would be a more successful reprint had the editor's numerous accompaniments been more distinctly set out from the text. Hood has sketched the manners, and selected the jokes, of Lamb and other Londoners with a richness not shown in detached borrowings. The annoyance of Lamb over Hood's one mistake—Hood's printing an article of his own over Lamb's signature—was much deeper than Mr. Jerrold fancied.

PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 27

*The Book Society's
'greatest book'***KRISTIN
LAVRANSDATTER**BY
SIGRID UNDSET

'She is possibly the greatest living novelist.'
—J. C. SQUIRE

'An epic of domesticity, through which Kristin Lavransdatter moves majestically, as exquisite girl, passionate lover, tender mother, and, finally, scolding spouse . . . perhaps the completest study of womanhood in fiction.'—JOHN O'LONDON

'I defy any reader . . . to put this volume down after reaching page fifty . . . its excitement is so unusual. I believe it to be no exaggeration to say that Kristin, daughter of Lavran, is one of the great world creations of fiction. This is the greatest book that we have yet offered our members.'—HUGH WALPOLE

948 pp. 8s. 6d.

ALFRED A. KNOPF LONDON

**THE
ROUND TABLE***A Quarterly Review of the Politics of
the British Commonwealth.***Leading Contents for March :****WHERE ARE WE GOING?****AN ECONOMIC REFORMATION.****CRIME IN THE UNITED STATES.****AN IMPRESSION OF CHINA.****INDIA AND THE VICEROY'S
PRONOUNCEMENT.****THE KYOTO CONFERENCE.****GREAT BRITAIN: HOME AFFAIRS.**

*Other articles from Ireland, Canada, Australia, South
Africa, and New Zealand*

Price 5s. per copy, or 20s. per annum. United
States and Canada \$5 p.a. India Rs. 15 p.a.,
unless it is preferred to pay in sterling. Post Free

*To be obtained through all Booksellers, Railway Bookstalls,
and at*

MACMILLAN & CO., LTD., LONDON, W.C.2.

Just Published

**THE ECONOMICS OF THE
COAL INDUSTRY**

By R. C. SMART, M.I.Min.E.

Demy 8vo. 278 pp. Map and Illustrations. 12s. 6d.

It is not fully realised that the most exacting and trying time of post-war mining has yet to be faced. This book forms the first attempt in the rational treatment of the financial, commercial and industrial problems of the industry together with the latest phases in the utilisation of the raw product—coal.

WEALTH :**A Brief Examination of the Causes of Economic
Welfare**By EDWIN CANNAN, Emeritus Professor of Political
Economy in the University of London.

Third Edition. Crown 8vo. 330 pp. 5s.

Has been translated into Spanish, Japanese, Chinese, Polish and
Braille.

Manchester Guardian.—"This is an excellent introduction to economics for the use of students or of other persons who would like to get clearer and firmer notions of the business side of life than they can get by merely casual observation and reflection upon such fragments as come within their personal purview."

**ENGLISH PUBLIC HEALTH
ADMINISTRATION**By B. G. BANNINGTON, Sanitary Inspector, County
Borough of West Ham.With an introduction by Professor GRAHAM WALLAS, M.A.
New and Revised Edition. 330 pp. 12s. 6d.

An analysis is here made of the organization and methods of the public health departments of local sanitary authorities in such a way as to be equally useful to the student, the official and the public representative.

Municipal Journal.—"Both for its qualities in exposition and as a critical comment on the relations between the Ministry and the local authorities, Mr. Bannington's book remains among the best of the shorter works on public health."

P. S. KING & SON, LTD.,
14 GREAT SMITH ST., WESTMINSTER

Now Ready No. 1

**"Indian
Affairs"**A NEW QUARTERLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO
THE CULTURAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMICAL AND
POLITICAL PROBLEMS OF INDIA TO-DAY

Edited by

Sir Albion Rajkumar Banerji
C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S. (Ret'd), Formerly Prime
Minister of Mysore and Foreign Minister of
Kashmir.

The main object of this Journal is to create general interest in Indian affairs and supply accurate information through the medium of articles contributed by the leaders of thought in India, irrespective of religion, caste or political parties, on all matters affecting the well-being of India and her economic and political evolution within the British Commonwealth.

THE LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS
includes: The great national poets and scientists of India, the chief leaders of religious, social and political movements.

No. 1 will feature provocative articles on "Marriage Reform in India" by Sir Hari Singh Gour, M.A., D.Litt., D.C.L., LL.D., Member of the Legislative Assembly, and "The Economics of Mahatma Gandhi" by C. Hayavadana Rao, B.A., B.L.

Published and obtainable at 8/9, Essex St., Strand, W.C.2.
Copies may also be obtained through
Messrs. W. H. Smith & Son, Ltd.

Price 5s.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 20/-

LADIES' CLUB.

MEMBERSHIP ON DEFINITE EVANGELICAL BASIS.
CENTRE OF VARIOUS CHRISTIAN ACTIVITIES.
SPECIAL TERMS FOR ENTRY FEBRUARY 15 to MAY 15.

APPLY SECRETARY:

NEW ALLIANCE CLUB, 10, Stratford Place, W.1.

AUCTION BRIDGE BY CALIBAN. **CALIBAN'S DUPLICATE BRIDGE** **CONTEST (VI.)**

HAND No. 11.

♠ Q J 10 2		♠ 8 6 3
♥ Q 5		♥ A K 4
♦ A K		♦ 10 9 8 4 3 2
♣ 8 5 4 3 2		♣ 6

♠ K 9 5		♠ A 7 4
♥ J 10 9 8 3		♥ 7 6 2
♦ J 5		♦ Q 7 6
♣ K 9 7		♣ A Q J 10

	Y	
A		B
	Z	

At all four tables Z opened the bidding with a Club; but once again I find myself unimpressed by this consensus of opinion. With Z's hand I should, as dealer, unhesitatingly declare One No-Trump. The hand, given fair support from partner, should be good for two overtricks in No-Trumps. At any rate, the call can do no harm, while the Clubs are still available if opposition in a major suit develops.

However, One Club was the initial bid. At one table no further bid was made. A thought it safest to leave well alone; Y was naturally well pleased with the Club declaration (on his hand I should have raised the call to Three); B was unwilling to take a chance on his Diamonds. ZY, of course, made Three Clubs (losing two Diamonds, a Club, and the King of Spades), but they ought not to have been allowed to get away with it so easily.

At the other three tables A called One Heart, and this led in each case to a different final declaration. At one table Y and B supported their respective partners, and Z secured the final declaration with Three Clubs. At a second table Y called Two Clubs and B supported his partner, but Z was unwilling to carry the declaration further. AB got home in Two Hearts, as I think they were bound to do.

At the last table Y, on the second round, showed his Spades, and was left in with a Two-Spade contract. He was defeated by 100 points, but this must, I think, have been the result of poor play. Played properly, the Two-Spade contract should get home. In my judgment the bidding on this hand showed that Bridge players generally are not courageous enough (I have a striking collection of statistical material, which I shall presently publish, that substantiates this view). The best bidding of the hand, as I think, would have been as follows:—

Z	A	Y	B
1 N.T.	2 ♥	2 ♠	3 ♣
3 ♠	No bid	No Bid	No Bid

In actual play AB would just fail to make their Three-Heart contract, and ZY would just fail to make their Spades; but neither can afford to leave the other in an adverse major suit declaration. The one risk that it is wrong to take, in good-class Bridge, is the risk of giving games away cheaply.

HAND No. 12.

♠ None		♠ 8 7 5 3
♥ A Q 8 7 3		♥ K J 10 5
♦ 8 5 4		♦ A 2
♣ A Q 6 4 2		♣ 10 8 3

♠ A 10 6 4		♠ K Q J 9 2
♥ 9 6 4 2		♥ None
♦ Q 9 7 6 3		♦ K J 10
♣ None		♣ K J 9 7 5

	Y	
A		B
	Z	

This hand—which is one that occurred recently in actual play—proved a fascinating exercise. Z's initial call was One Spade at three tables and Two Spades at the fourth. I do not greatly like the Two Spades; it suggests (what is not true) that Z's hand is likely to be useless in No-Trumps, and it deprives him of his opportunity of showing his Clubs at a later stage. I should call One Spade every time.

Nevertheless, the Two Spade call proved very profitable to YZ, owing to incorrect bidding on A's part. From motives which are not very intelligible, he doubled; Y had the sense to do nothing (many players would have plunged, with fatal results, into a call of Three Hearts); and B—uncertain whether his partner's double was "American" or "business"—called Three Hearts himself. This unhappy venture was doubled, and was "set," as they say in America, for three tricks.

If A had said nothing, Z would, presumably, have been left in, and would have made Three Spades—a rather poor result.

Now for the other tables. At one of them, A passed—as I think, correctly. Y, thereupon, called One No-Trump, which is not in principle good. He was left in, and made the game. On his hand, however, I should have called Two Hearts, which Z, in his turn, would properly have overcalled with Three Clubs. This, it seems to me, is the correct final declaration.

At the other two tables, A called Two Diamonds, which I do not like. He cannot possibly secure the contract unless B has a useful hand; and if B has a useful hand, Z cannot go game in Spades. A, therefore, should keep quiet. The Two Diamond call was at both tables overcalled by Y with Two Hearts; but at one, he was left in (to be defeated on his contract); while at the other, Z properly overcalled with his Clubs. Z Y made small slam in Clubs, losing only the Ace of Diamonds.

For
quick
starting
use



**WINTER
SHELL**

Specially blended for cold weather

Shure

14/369 N.

AUSSTELLUNG INSEL-VERLAG

Wir zeigen jetzt im zweiten
Stock beinahe alle Bücher
des Insel-Verlages in
Leipzig. Diese Ausstellung
dauert einige Wochen.
Katalog steht gern zur
Verfügung.

J. & E. BUMPUS LTD.
350 OXFORD STREET, W.1.

THE CONTEMPORARY REVIEW

CONTENTS: MARCH, 1930. 3s. 6d. net.

THE ULTIMATE POLITICS OF THE CONFERENCE
By NORMAN ANGELL, M.P.
PRESIDENT MASARYK By Dr. R. W. SETON-WATSON
THE UNITED STATES OF EUROPE By Dr. WILLIAM MARTIN
DEMOCRACY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
By Professor ERNEST BARKER, Litt.D., LL.D.
THE CARTWRIGHT INTERVIEW OF AUGUST, 1911
By Dr. SIGMUND MÜNZ
GLADSTONE AS A CHRISTIAN STATESMAN
By WILLIAM HARBUTT DAWSON
THE PROBLEM OF PERSONALITY
By the Rev. Dr. J. SCOTT LIDGETT
THE ROMAN QUESTION, LEO XIII AND SIGNOR MUSSOLINI
By N. V. TCHARYKOW
HISTORY AS A TRAINING FOR CITIZENSHIP
By G. P. GOOCH, D.Litt., F.B.A.
CHESTERFIELD AND JOHNSON By H. ARTHUR BAKER
SINAL: A VISIT TO ST. KATHARINE'S MONASTERY
By C. A. G. MACKINTOSH
THE SICILIAN MARIONETTES By ISABEL EMERSON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS By GEORGE GLASGOW
THE NAVAL CONFERENCE: "HUMANISING" THE SUBMARINE; FIRST
EXCHANGES AT THE CONFERENCE: THE "METHOD" OF LIMITATION.
LITERARY SUPPLEMENT AND REVIEWS OF BOOKS.

Publishing Office: 19, CURSOR STREET, LONDON, E.C.4.

For your throat

Made from
pure glycerine
and the fresh
juice of ripe
black currants.
They are delight-
fully soothing.

Allenburys
Glycerine & Black Currant **PASTILLES**

Your Chemist sells them
8^d & 1³ Per Box

If you find any difficulty in obtaining the NATION and
ATHENÆUM locally, you should order it to be supplied by
post from this office.

Inland and Abroad: 3 months 7/6; 6 months 15/-;
12 months £1 10s.

ORDER FORM.

To The Manager, "The Nation and Athenæum," 38, Great
James Street, Bedford Row, W.C.1.

Please send me "The Nation and Athenæum" by post
weekly. I enclose cheque or Postal Order for months.

NAME

ADDRESS

RECORD PROGRESS

by the

"ABBAY ROAD"

LONDON'S LARGEST
BUILDING SOCIETY

Consider the following figures—a tribute to
sound management and proof of the confi-
dence of the investing public. During 1929:

■ SHARE CAPITAL
INCREASED by
£5,660,000

■ DEPOSITS
INCREASED by
£578,000

■ MEMBERSHIP
INCREASED by
38,000

■ MONEY ADVANCED
in 1929 TOTALLED
£8,800,000

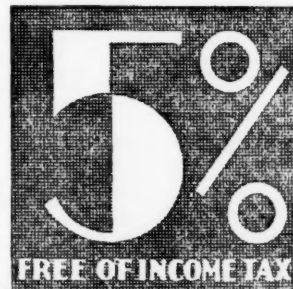
WHY NOT SHARE SUCH PROSPERITY ?

No investor in the Abbey Road has ever lost a 1d. piece
of his capital. The yield is generous—up to 5% free
of income tax. Liquid assets now total £1,000,000
invested in gilt edged and trustee securities.

Address your enquiries to
Harold Bellman, General Manager,
ABBAY ROAD, BUILDING
SOCIETY, Abbey House,
Upper Baker St., N.W.1

City Offices:
101 Cheapside, E.C.2, and 145
Moorgate, E.C.2

West End Office:
108 Victoria Street, S.W.1



Just a few copies left

Naval Conference Supplement

The Naval Conference Supplement published in a recent issue of the NATION has met with whole-hearted approval. It is a useful guide to the problems of Naval limitation. There are just a few copies left, and these are obtainable from the publisher, 7d. post free.

THE NATION AND ATHENÆUM,
38, Great James St., Bedford Row,
London, W.C.1.

PERSONAL.

MATERNITY NURSE, aged 62, suffering from diabetes, will have to give up work altogether before long. No relatives and few friends in this country, as her early life was spent in S. America. Efforts being made to procure pension or admission to permanent home. Gifts for assistance meanwhile to Preb. Carlile, "Special Cases," The Church Army, 55, Bryanston Street, W.1.

LITERARY.

TYPEWRITING, 10d. per 1,000, prompt and careful work.—Weatherley, 5, The Close, Thornhill Park, Bitterne, Southampton.

BOOKPLATES FOR MODERN BOOKS.—Original exclusive designs from 2 guineas. Write Osbornes, Artist-Engravers, 27, Eastcastle Street, London, W.1.

PRIVATELY PUBLISHED WORKS.—Anglo-American Publications, Fetter House, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.4, undertake publishing same at low charges. Particulars on application.

LYRICS AND SONGS of Originality, also Pianoforte works, considered for publication. Send or bring MSS. (Dept. A. 283), Peter Derek, Ltd., Music Publishers, 88, New Oxford Street, London.

ELOCUTION.—Mr. CHAS. SEYMOUR will forward his brochure "A" of his Private Lessons in Public Speaking: Vocabulary; Sequence; SPEAKING ON SPUR OF MOMENT; PROPOSING TOASTS; etc. Voice Production, Breathing, Reciting.—401, West Strand (opposite Hotel Cecil), W.C.2.

MISCELLANEOUS.

REAL HARRIS HOMESPUNS. Any length cut. Patterns free. —James Street Tweed Depot, 158, Stornoway, N.B.

HAVE YOU COCKROACHES? Then buy "Blattis" Union Cockroach Paste. Universally and successfully used in all parts of the Globe. Extermination Guaranteed. From Chemists, Boots Branches, or sole makers, Howarth's, 478, Crookesmoor, Sheffield. Tins 1/4, 2/6, 4/6, post free.

READERS OF THE NATION AND ATHENÆUM are invited to use the classified advertisement columns of that Journal for the purpose of making known their wants. Small prepaid advertisements are charged at the rate of one shilling and sixpence per line per insertion. (A line usually averages about eight words.) An additional charge of 6d. is made for the use of a Box No. Reductions are allowed for a series of insertions. Full particulars will be sent on application to the Advertisement Manager, THE NATION AND ATHENÆUM, 38, Great James Street, Bedford Row, London, W.C.1.

Other Classified Small Advertisements will be found on Page 748.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

The Trial of Count Königsmarck. Edited by the HON. EVELINE GODLEY. (Davies. 7s. 6d.)

The Lady Ivie's Trial. Edited by SIR JOHN C. FOX. (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 12s. 6d.)

These are good specimens of the now popular editions of "historical trials" in which the interest is something more than criminal. Königsmarck was an unpleasant, swashbuckling, seventeenth-century mercenary and adventurer who was tried and acquitted for the murder of Thomas Thynne of Longleat in Pall Mall on February 12th, 1682. The book is well edited, the story being told with extensive use of the text of "State Trials" (Cobbett's edition, 1811). The other book is also based on "State Trials." The case, which came for trial before Jeffreys, is extremely interesting. It was brought by the lessee of the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's against the lady who called herself Lady Ivie claiming a plot of ground near London Bridge where now is Shadwell Park. The deeds on which the Lady Ivie relied were proved to be forgeries, and she lost her case.

Rasputin. By IVAN NOGHIVIN. Translated by C. J. HOGARTH. (Knopf. 21s.)

This is an account of the War and Revolution in Russia rather than a study of the character of Rasputin. One is not given the idea that he had much to do with the fate of Russia; the scenes in which he appears bear a monotonous resemblance to each other, and show him as a vulgar, conceited peasant, quite unconnected with the main events of the book, although it is chiefly concerned with the fall of the Monarchy. Personal relationships between people who are never real, and descriptions of the endless societies and organizations they form, leave the mind confused; the mixture of facts and the views of the author which he forces into the mouths of his characters is not happy, and the result is a feeling of such general unreality and tedium that one cannot even be roused by the horrors and intended thrills which are scattered throughout the book. The translation is fair.

Baedeker's Northern Italy, including Florence. (Allen & Unwin. 16s.)

This is the fifteenth edition, and, as it is the first revision to be published since the war, it is really a new guide, for it has largely been rewritten. It includes, of course, the territory in the north and north-east which passed to Italy from Austria at the end of the war, and now forms Venezia Tridentina and Venezia Giulia. It also includes Pisa and Ravenna as well as Florence. It is up to the high standard of Baedeker's.

Baedeker's Rome and Central Italy. (Allen & Unwin. 16s.)

This is the sixteenth edition, and, like the volume for Northern Italy, appears now for the first time in a revised form since the war. The territorial changes are, of course, not noticeable in this volume as they were in the other, though the alterations due to the foundation of the Vatican City are included, so that it is well up to date. The changes in conditions in Italy since the war have, in fact, been so many and so great that the handbook has had to be rewritten.

Spain: A Companion to Spanish Travel. By E. ALLISON PEERS. (Harrap. 7s. 6d.)

No better guide could have been chosen as the author of this little volume in "The Kitbag Travel Books." Professor Peers is an authority on the language, literature, history, and country of Spain. He has used his knowledge admirably here, and the traveller could not use a better handbook. He will probably require in addition a more complete guide-book in which hotels, &c., are treated exhaustively, but if he wants a book to advise him where to go and what is best worth his seeing when he is there, he should put himself under Professor Peers's guidance.

Lucky Peter's Travels, and Other Plays. By AUGUST STRINDBERG. (Cape. 7s. 6d.)

This is the second volume of translated Strindberg plays to be published for the Anglo-Swedish Literary Foundation; the first was reviewed at length in these columns. The plays included in this volume, besides that which gives it its title, are "The Father," "Lady Julie," "Playing with Fire," and "The Bond."

COMPANY MEETING.

SELFRIDGE & CO., LTD.

The annual general meeting of Selfridge & Co., Ltd., was held on Monday last at the company's stores, Oxford Street, W.

Mr. H. Gordon Selfridge (the chairman) said in the course of his speech: I am able to present to you to-day a very agreeable report of our last year's business. The profit shown is, all things considered, the best in our history, and the entire condition of the business, even as viewed from an intramural standpoint, is most excellent. With our approaching anniversary (March 15th) this business becomes twenty-one years old.

During those twenty-one years the feelings of the public toward the business of retail distribution have shown an extraordinary change. To-day these great houses are fully recognized as tremendous assets to the community in which they are placed. They attract visitors, they are great employers—their weekly pay rolls being a very substantial and happy benefit to the entire district. They provide the most important share of the work in keeping manufacturers busy and thus speed up the industry of the country. They win for their city and their State the respect and applause from merchants and men of business from other parts of the world, because their methods are modern to the last word, and their policies and principles are built upon the highest and most far-reaching ideas of the mid-twentieth-century student of scientific business.

We have grown with almost each succeeding year. We started twenty-one years ago with 1,100 employees; we now reach in this individual business between 4,000 and 5,000, while in the entire Selfridge businesses we show 15,000 on our rolls. Our premises have been added to continually, and we have further necessary additions in contemplation. From a totally unknown firm name twenty-one years ago we now number among our many thousands of well-satisfied, permanent customers names from every part of London and from every town or district of Great Britain as well. Of course, our returns have increased continually, and the year just completed has been the highest of any—but this is only as it should be.

Our profits have shown equal progress—the first year £6,100, the second £36,200, the third £50,200, the fourth £104,000, the fifth £131,500, the sixth £134,800, the seventh £150,200, the eighth £225,100, the ninth £258,700, the tenth £322,800, the eleventh (the boom year of 1919) £372,400, &c., and this year, £481,312.

The report and accounts were adopted.

The New York Nation

the most outspoken exponent of liberal thought in America

is publishing

A Series of Special Articles

on

The Naval Conference and Disarmament

by

NORMAN ANGELL, M.P.

Weekly International Affairs Section, in which
important documents and reports otherwise unobtain-
able in English often appear.

British Agent:

GERTRUDE M. CROSS, 23, Brunswick Square, London, W.C.1

Subscription 25/- a year 6/3 three months

Specimen copy free on request

PEARL

ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED,
HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.1.

Summary of the Sixty-sixth Annual Report FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1929.

INCOME.

LIFE BRANCHES.—The Premium Income for the year amounted to £11,681,606, an increase of £530,981 over that of the previous year.

FIRE AND ACCIDENT BRANCHES.—The Premium Income for the year amounted to £649,090, an increase of £29,981 over that of the previous year.

TOTAL INCOME.—The Total Income for the year amounted to £14,904,174, an increase of £682,108 over that of the previous year.

BONUS.

ORDINARY BRANCH.—An annual reversionary Bonus of £2 6s. 0d. per cent. has been declared on Pearl Policies entitled to participate in full profits.

INDUSTRIAL BRANCH.—A sum of £506,671 has been set aside to provide Reversionary Bonuses to Policies, with certain exceptions, effected before 1st January, 1923.

CLAIMS.

LIFE BRANCHES.—The Life Claims and Matured Endowments paid and outstanding numbered 323,280, and amounted with Bonuses to £5,786,456.

FIRE AND ACCIDENT BRANCHES.—In the Fire and Accident Branches, the Claims paid and outstanding amounted to £332,609.

TOTAL CLAIMS.—The Total Claims paid by the Company amount to £61,813,290.

FUNDS.

TOTAL FUNDS.—The Total Funds amount to £58,464,241, which is an increase of £4,882,213 over those of the previous year.

GEORGE TILLEY,
Chairman.

FINANCIAL SECTION

THE WEEK IN THE CITY

CONVERSION LOAN OFFER—UNDERGROUND—OIL—MASSEY HARRIS

MR. SNOWDEN, as the keeper of the national purse, commands the respect of most thoughtful people in the City. He stands for conservative finance, that is, he may be relied upon to budget on the basis of facts and not of imagination, to raise revenue by orthodox ways and means and not by stunts, and to attend to the reduction of the national debt. He may be pardoned for describing the last Budget as a fraudulent one and for putting the responsibility for a deficit in advance on Mr. Churchill. But the City is not so sure that Mr. Snowden is taking sufficient advantage of the present monetary situation in his debt conversion policy. Last November he surprised everyone by offering 5 per cent. Conversion Loan, 1944-64, at par when market conditions pointed to a rapid fall in interest rates. That offer resulted in £154 millions being subscribed in cash and £79 millions of 5½ per cent. Treasury bonds, due May 15th, 1930, being converted. To provide for the £55.3 millions of these 5½ per cent. Treasury bonds left unconverted, Mr. Snowden is now offering 4½ per cent. Conversion Loan, 1940-44, at the rate of £105 10s. Conversion Loan for each £100 Treasury bond. Holders of these Treasury bonds will receive the £5 10s. interest payable on May 15th and a first payment of 15s. on the Conversion Loan on July 1st. These terms allow a redemption yield of £5 0s. 9d. per cent. to those who convert. Hence there is no saving to the Treasury in this offer as compared with that of the 5 per cent. Conversion Loan in November last, in spite of the fact that Bank rate is now 4½ per cent., as compared with 6 per cent., and the three-months' discount rate 3¾ per cent., as compared with 5 13-16.

The present offer of 4½ per cent. Conversion Loan consists also of an unlimited issue for cash. At the issue price of 95 for cash applications, the yield to final redemption in 1944 is £5 0s. 2d. per cent., or, to redemption at the earlier date of 1940, £5 3s. 1d. per cent. Thus, if Mr. Snowden's intention is to reduce further the Floating Debt—which is some £66 millions lower than a year ago—the Government will be paying off short-term debt which is costing 3½ per cent. to 4 per cent. with money borrowed for long-term at 5 per cent. and over. And this at a time when the City is looking for a 4 per cent. Bank rate. Indeed, with the volume of Treasury Bills already reduced and the supply of trade bills diminishing with the trade depression, the time is coming when money will be hardly usable in the City. (Let stockbrokers take heart—this will be the time when money will come back to the Stock Exchange for employment.) These considerations surely justify some criticism of Mr. Snowden for what appears to be an expensive debt conversion policy. His excuse, no doubt, is the urgency of the problem. When he got to the Treasury, he said, he found things infinitely worse than he had ever realized—"the till empty of cash and chock full of unpaid bills." This explains, if it does not justify, the seeming extravagance of the 5 per cent. Conversion offer last November—our Chancellor of the Exchequer had "the wind up."

The London and North-Eastern Railway is paying 3 per cent. on its preferred ordinary stock, against ½ per cent. in 1928—it has not paid the full 5 per cent. since 1925—and yet the market only values that stock at 34½, to yield about 9¼ per cent. We will return to the subject of the home railway stocks—which reflect for reasons we gave last week, more than their share of the prevailing depression in the stock markets—when the distinguished chair-

men have had their say at the shareholders' meetings. Meanwhile, we would draw attention to the ordinary shares and 6 per cent. income bonds of the Underground Electric Railways Company of London. This Company holds practically 100 per cent. of the ordinary stocks of the tube railways, the London General Omnibus, and the Associated Equipment Company, which builds the London 'buses, 55 per cent. of that of the Metropolitan District Railway, 40 per cent. of the ordinary shares of London Suburban Traction Company, and various investments in companies outside the Underground combine. From these holdings it received £1,159,028 in 1929, against £1,118,473 in 1928 and £958,03 in 1927. Its net income last year, after allowing for expenses and income tax, came to £1,113,213, which was sufficient to cover the 6 per cent. interest on the income bonds more than twice and leave earnings of 8.2 per cent. on the ordinary share capital (now £7,301,781), against dividends paid of 8 per cent. Allowing for accrued dividends, at 107 the 6 per cent. income bonds allow a flat yield of 5.7 per cent., and at 23s. the ordinary shares return 7½ per cent. The 6 per cent. income bonds are convertible into £1 ordinary shares at 21s. up to June 30th, 1930. There is no "turn" on the conversion at the present time, but it is hard to find an investment share offering 7½ per cent., and commanding sure prospects of gradual capital appreciation. Last year the ordinary shares touched 28s. 6d., and the income bonds 132.

The issue by the Shell Transport and Trading Company of 5,000,000 7 per cent. second preference shares of £1 at 25s., and that by the Venezuelan Oil Concessions, Ltd. (which is now to take over the V.O.C. Holding Company), of 1,800,000 ordinary shares of £1 at par, should be read as signs of the times by those who have invested in the oil industry. The oil situation in the United States is bad, and the big oil combines are strengthening their cash resources in order to meet a period of intensive competition at low prices. The producers in the principal oil-fields in Oklahoma, West Texas, and California are still restricting their output, but the refiners of the crude oil have not restricted their output of gasoline, which is absurd. The stocks of gasoline increased last year in the United States by 11,000,000 barrels to over 43,000,000 barrels, and the over-production still continues. Internal prices of gasoline have fallen steadily since September last, and it is difficult to see how the American Oil Exporters' Association can maintain the export prices for gasoline at the levels fixed in February, 1929. The probability is that the Standard Oil Company of New York and the Vacuum Oil Company, which are proposing to merge, will break away from the Exporters' Association and initiate a period of price-cutting in the world markets. The Royal Dutch-Shell group are, of course, better prepared than most combines to meet such competition. Shareholders of this group should not be alarmed; but they must exercise patience.

The break in commodity prices—particularly the slump in wheat and cotton—is thoroughly upsetting the American and Canadian stock markets. The shares of the farm-implement manufacturers have been especially vulnerable to short-selling and spasmodic liquidation. Massey Harris shares, which at one time last year reached 100, have fallen to 35, to allow a yield on the basis of \$3 dividends of over 8½ per cent. The report of this Company for the year to November 30th, 1929, which has just been published, indicated that the common share dividends paid were covered 1.6 times. The Company's balance-sheet showed the effects of the farmers' troubles in greatly increased inventories and bills receivable and in greatly reduced cash. But for those who can afford to wait Massey Harris shares at 35 should prove a profitable speculation.

COMPANY MEETING.

UNDERGROUND RAILWAYS.

The Meeting of the Proprietors of the Underground Railways was held on Thursday, February 27th, at the Caxton Hall, Westminster.

The Right Honourable Lord Ashfield, who presided, said: This is the first occasion upon which we have had the representatives of so many companies present at one time, but as I look round the room I am not sure that any one of us would realize that there were the stock and share holders of not less than ten separate companies met together for the transaction of business of considerable importance not only to themselves but to London as a whole.

The traffic for the year 1929, as measured by the number of passengers carried, shows some small advance upon that for 1928. The total number of passengers carried by railway, tramway and omnibus amounted to 2,175 millions. The tramways carried 9 per cent. of this total, the railways 18 per cent., and the omnibuses 73 per cent. These figures bring out in a forcible manner the predominance of the omnibuses within your group of Companies. If I look further afield at the whole of the traffic carried by local agencies in Greater London, I find that the omnibus share amounts to about 53 per cent. of the whole, so that this predominance is complete and it is also unique, for nowhere else in the capital cities of the world can the omnibus show anything approaching so substantial a share in the fostering of local movement. During last year the passengers carried by the railways increased by 7 per cent., those carried by the tramways increased by 4 per cent., and those carried by the omnibuses by just over 1 per cent.

The aggregate operating costs for 1929 amounted to £14,326,000, an increase of £327,000 over 1928, or 2.3 per cent. Perhaps the best way in which to measure the relative level of our costs is to relate the costs to the car miles run. The cost per car mile has fallen from 12.27d. to 12.25d., which shows that while on the whole it is unchanged in spite of the increased petrol cost, the tendency is downward still, and that the increase in expenditure is justified by the increase in service. I am happy to be able to tell you this.

London is indeed remarkable as a metropolis, for in spite of the depression in trade and of the falling birth rate, it continues to grow all the while. It has always been the place in which the wealth of the country is spent, though it is rapidly becoming as well the place in which the wealth of the country is gained. In 1929, the population within the Metropolitan Police District was estimated to number 7,900,000, and to this must be added the population of the outer ring of 900,000, making 8,800,000 persons altogether as the population focused upon this one centre. The commerce of London grows. The shipping in the Thames, the financial business of the City, the marketing of commodities, all tend to grow. We are not, however, compelled to form our judgment upon any general figures. We may test it against our own experience at Morden, Edgware, and Hounslow, three of the outer districts which we serve. In the last three years, from 1927 to 1929, some 16,500 houses have been added to these districts, and the population served by our railways has increased by some 70,000 persons, a population equal to that of the city of Bath. It is indeed hard to grasp what such an increase means. Here is a whole fresh city requiring transport, requiring links with its parent body, London itself, links which your Companies have supplied, so that in a sense they have been the creators of that city.

The effect of all this progress throws upon your Companies a heavy responsibility. The demand for service is insistent and increasing. Not only does the population grow, but the rate at which each member of the population travels also grows. In 1927 the journeys per head of the population were 487; in 1928, 507; and in 1929, 512. The rate mounts upward, while the financial resources from which fresh service can be provided are almost stationary. Our resources do not grow at the same rate as the possibilities of traffic, and in spite of our efforts, the lag between the demand for service and the provision of service constitutes the real traffic problem which besets London. For London requires more underground railways. Since 1918, this group of Companies collectively has spent £29,000,000 upon the provision of traffic facilities, but it is by no means enough. We have been fortunate in being able to expend as much, taking advantage of the special provisions made from time to time by the Government to aid such expenditure, and all the favourable circumstances which have occurred. Once more we are in a position to avail ourselves of an opportunity of the sort, and we have put before the Government a programme for raising and expending capital to the extent of some £13,500,000 for the extension and completion of our underground railway system. It is not necessary that I should go over this programme with you at this meeting, for at the Wharfedale Meeting of the Railway Companies, recently held, this programme and our intentions were fully explained to you, and received your approval. We are compelled to expand. It is impossible for us to stand still. By some means or other London will have to supply the resources for our expansion.

So far as private enterprise is concerned, no one can allege that we have not faithfully discharged our task to the limits of our strength. There may come a time when underground railways will have to be found and provided by public authorities just as roads are now found and provided. The construction of such railways leads to the creation of land values which escape entirely the burden of contributing to the agency which

has created them. London has become a centre of a larger life, having an ever-widening influence, and against the cost of providing the transport facilities necessary to maintain this centre must be set many advantages, an intensity of business activity impossible in a small place, a greater liveliness of thought and endeavour which attracts the finest intelligences and raises the standard of accomplishment, a variety of pursuit and endeavour which affords scope and opportunity for the most diverse gifts. We had thought that if all the local passenger transport undertakings of Greater London were brought within a single scheme, having a common financial interest and a common management, that the fares to be received from the public, even based upon the present general level of fares, would be adequate to enable the combined undertakings to develop and expand steadily to a sufficient extent to meet the more urgent needs of London's growth. Such a thought was the logical outcome of the steps which had been taken in the past. The experience of our own common fund warranted us in assuming that a larger common fund would be more stable and more successful. We never assumed that this scheme was a final or complete solution of our problems. In a living London there cannot be a final or complete scheme, for London outgrows itself with the years. In our view it was only one more step towards that final solution of the London traffic problem which always seems to escape us. Well, Parliament declined to accept our tentative solution, and the Bills promoted in Parliament last year were eventually rejected. This has not in any way affected the problem itself. It has only made the need for securing some other solution more urgent and more imperative. We may be glad to think that the responsibility for finding a solution has been lifted from our shoulders and has been assumed by the Government, for now we must look to them to make their proposals as to the way in which this problem is to be met. Mr. Herbert Morrison, the present Minister of Transport, has told the House of Commons that he realizes that this responsibility now rests primarily with his Department. In his own words, "the ends in view can be fully achieved and the public interest can be fully safeguarded only if existing sectional financial interests are consolidated by the substitution of a single and simple form of public ownership for the complicated network of separate interests, private and municipal." He could not state our own aim more clearly. He is seeking "a plan for the complete consolidation upon fair and equitable terms of the passenger transport agencies now providing services by omnibus, by tramway, or by local railways in the London Traffic Area," and he added that the Government "desire to make it clear that their intention and aim will be to assert and effectively to provide for the principle of commercial management of a self-supporting consolidated transport system, thus ensuring the advantages of vigorous business enterprise." Again, our own aim, but with a difference. Since the Government made this announcement in the House of Commons they have appointed Sir William McIntock to investigate the situation for them and to make proposals as to how effect can be given to their policy. We have been asked to co-operate with Sir William McIntock in this matter, and we have replied, stating that we are willing to afford him all the facilities he may require in connection with his investigations, though it will, of course, be appreciated that this does not commit your Companies in any way, and that the information given to Sir William McIntock must be regarded for the time being as confidential and as given, as the lawyers say, without prejudice. And there the matter rests. At this time I cannot make any comment upon the situation, for it has not sufficiently developed for me to find any point that either merits or demands criticism or approval. We keep an open mind, so that the less said the better. We may regret the loss of the Bill promoted by the Common Fund Group of Companies seeking to establish a common fund and a common management upon a wider but voluntary basis. We may still have a fondness for our own Bill as meeting the immediate circumstances of London. But we are no dogmatists in this matter, and are prepared to try other remedies until they are proved to be faulty or harmful. We may claim that as Companies we have no politics. Your Boards recognize that they have a duty to protect the shareholders, the staff, and the general public. Our claim to protect the general public may indeed be questioned, for the Government may assert that they have a prior claim in this connection, but though we are not appointed for the purpose of protecting the general public, we may direct attention to our past record of public service in justification of our claim that, in fact, we have their interests always before us and serve them to the best of our ability and means. Your Boards will not accept any scheme which may be propounded which is not sound in all these three respects, which does not provide equitably and fairly for the interests of the shareholders, of the staff, and of the general public, our passengers. We are prepared, and I am sure you will agree we ought to be prepared, to explore all roads which may lead towards the solution of the London traffic problem, and we are prepared to give to this Government, as to any other Government, our loyal collaboration in any proposals that they may bring forward, if we are satisfied that those proposals will not be prejudicial to your interests or cause injury to your undertakings, and at the same time, will afford the management the same measure of freedom to act and think for themselves which they now enjoy and will permit these transport undertakings to remain capable of progressive development to meet the needs of London.

The resolutions were carried unanimously.

TOURS, WHERE TO STAY, &c.

REFORMED INNS.

ASK FOR DESCRIPTIVE LIST (2d., post free) of 170 INNS AND HOTELS managed by the PEOPLE'S REFRESHMENT HOUSE ASSOCIATION, LTD.
P.R.H.A., Ltd., St. George's House, 193, Regent Street, W.1.

EDUCATIONAL.

BEDFORD PHYSICAL TRAINING COLLEGE.

Principal: Miss STANSFELD.

Students are trained in this College to become Teachers of Gymnastics, Games, &c. Fees, £105 per year. For particulars, apply The Secretary, 87, Lansdowne Road, Bedford.

BRIDLINGTON SCHOOL, East Yorks.—Endowed School. 120 Boarders. 80 acres. Public School lines. Bracing climate. O.T.C. Ages 8-19. Inclusive Fees, £77-88. Prospectus from Headmaster, F. Roydon Richards, M.A.

CHURCH EDUCATION CORPORATION.—Uplands School, St. Leonards-on-Sea. Two Open Scholarships of £10 a year will be offered on the result of an examination to be held on May 6th, to girls over 12 and under 14 on the 31st July, 1930. The Council will give, if necessary, additional grants of the value of £30 to £40 a year. Entries before March 31st. Apply to Head Mistress.

HARROGATE COLLEGE.—Five Entrance Scholarships are offered for competition for entrance to the School in September, 1930, to girls between the age of 12 and 15. Value £90 to £50. Latest date for returning Entry Forms, March 15th. Full particulars obtainable from Headmistress's Secretary.

TEACHER for Nursery Boarding School, should understand modern psychological and class methods with young children, and have progressive and scientific outlook; able also assist elementary French and German up to 10 years; or, alternatively, dancing, some plastic art or craft, some medical knowledge. English, Swiss, German or Scandinavian eligible.—Write age, experience, all subjects offered, attitude to education, Bertrand and Dora Russell, Beacon Hill School, Harting, Petersfield.

PUBLIC NOTICES, LECTURES, ETC.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

A COURSE of Three Lectures on "EARLY TEUTONIC CIVILISATION" will be given by PROFESSOR DR. JAN DE VRIES (Professor of Germanic Languages in the University of Leiden), at UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON (Gower Street, W.C.1.), on TUESDAY, FRIDAY, and TUESDAY, MARCH 4th, 7th, and 11th, at 5.30 p.m. At the First Lecture the Chair will be taken by HIS EXCELLENCY THE MINISTER FOR THE NETHERLAND (Jonkheer de Marees Van Swinderen).

A Lecture on "THE PAST AND PRESENT IN RUSSIAN HISTORY" will be given by PROFESSOR PAUL MILYUKOV (formerly Lecturer in the University of Moscow and Professor of History in the University of Sofia), at KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON (Strand, W.C.2), on WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5th, at 5.30 p.m. The Chair will be taken by Mr. A. F. MEYENDORFF (Reader in Russian Institutions and Economics in the University).

ADMISSION FREE, WITHOUT TICKET. EDWIN DELLER, Principal.

CONWAY HALL, RED LION SQUARE, W.C.1.

SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 2nd, at 11.
JOHN A. HOBSON, M.A.

"New Attitudes Towards Property."

APPOINTMENTS VACANT.

SANDECOTES SCHOOL, PARKSTONE, DORSET.

THE COUNCIL invite applications, not later than March 29th, for the post of Head Mistress of the above School, to take up duty in September, 1930. Applicants must be members of the Church of England, and University Graduates. For full particulars and form of application, apply to the Secretary, Church Education Corporation, 34, Denison House, Westminster, London, S.W.1.

APPOINTMENTS VACANT—(continued).

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—The Senate invite applications for the University Readership in French Language and Literature, tenable at Birkbeck College. Salary £500 a year. Applications (12 copies) must be received not later than first post on April 9th, 1930, by the Academic Registrar, University of London, S.W.7, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE.

COLEG PRIFATHROFAOL DEHEUDIR CYMRU A MYNWY.

THE COUNCIL of the College invites applications for the appointment of a Professor to "The Montague Burton Chair of Industrial Relations."

Salary, £800 per annum.

Further particulars may be obtained from the undersigned by whom 75 copies of application and testimonials must be received on or before March 15th, 1930.

University College,
Cardiff.

February 4th, 1930.

D. J. A. BROWN, Registrar.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF PADDINGTON.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

THE COUNCIL invite applications for the undermentioned appointments at the Public Libraries:—

A CHILDREN'S ASSISTANT (FEMALE).—At a commencing salary of £165 per annum, rising by annual increments of £12 10s. to £215 per annum. Candidates must have had previous experience in the Children's Department of a Public Library, and hold Certificates of the Library Association. Candidates must be between the ages of 21 and 30 years.

FIVE SECOND ASSISTANTS.—Each at a commencing salary of £50 per annum, rising by annual increments of £10 to £120 per annum. Candidates must be between the ages of 16 and 20, and preference will be given to candidates holding a recognized educational qualification, such as London Matriculation, Oxford or Cambridge Senior Local Examination, or equivalent.

A GENERAL CLERK AND TYPIST (FEMALE).—At a commencing salary of £130 per annum. Expert knowledge of shorthand and typewriting essential, and preference will be given to candidates who have had previous Library experience. Age to be between 21 and 28 years.

Successful candidates will be required to produce certificate of birth, pass an examination by the Council's Medical examiner, devote the whole of their time to the duties of their respective offices, and submit to the provisions of the Paddington Borough Council (Superannuation and Pensions) Acts, 1911 and 1928.

Application, in the candidate's own handwriting, and accompanied by copies of not more than three recent testimonials, must be made on a form, which may be obtained from the undersigned and delivered here not later than 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 8th, 1930.

The request for a form of application must state clearly the appointment concerned, and must be accompanied by a stamped addressed foolscap envelope.

Canvassing, either directly or indirectly, will be a disqualification.

BY ORDER,

W. F. ABBIS, Town Clerk.

Town Hall, Paddington, W.2.
February 20th, 1930.

EAST SUSSEX EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the post of Assistant Librarian (male) in the East Sussex County Library. Commencing salary £150 a year, rising by annual increments of £12 10s. to a maximum salary of £250 a year. Preference will be given to applicants possessing the Certificate of the Library Association in Cataloguing and Classification.

The appointment will date from April 1st, 1930, or from such later date as the selected applicant may be in a position to take up duties.

Forms of application may be obtained from the Director of Education, to whom they must be returned, with copies of not more than three testimonials, to reach him not later than March 7th, 1930.

J. H. BAINES,

Director of Education.

County Hall,
Lewes.

BOROUGH OF HYDE.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the position of Public Librarian. Salary £300 per annum. Candidates must not be more than 40 years of age, must have previous library experience, and hold at least three certificates of the Libraries Association. Applications, accompanied by copies of not more than three recent testimonials, to be addressed to the undersigned, endorsed "Public Librarian," and are to be received not later than Saturday, March 15th, 1930. Canvassing in any form will be a disqualification.

Dated this 22nd day of February, 1930.

THOS. BROWNSON, Town Clerk.

Town Hall, Hyde.

At sunrise **BOURNVILLE** and sunset **COCOA**
DELICIOUS WITH BREAKFAST & SUPPER
SEE THE NAME 'Cadbury' ON EVERY PIECE OF CHOCOLATE

ons
ure,
ust
mic
may

he
us-
73
ore

ed

of
am.
ent
on.

per
tes
to
lon
ent.
ary
ial,
ary

th.
ole
the
ons)

by
rm,
ater

int-
cap

ian
to a
2250
cate
late
ion.
esti-

blie
chan
east
by
the
ater
e a

and